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January 2012

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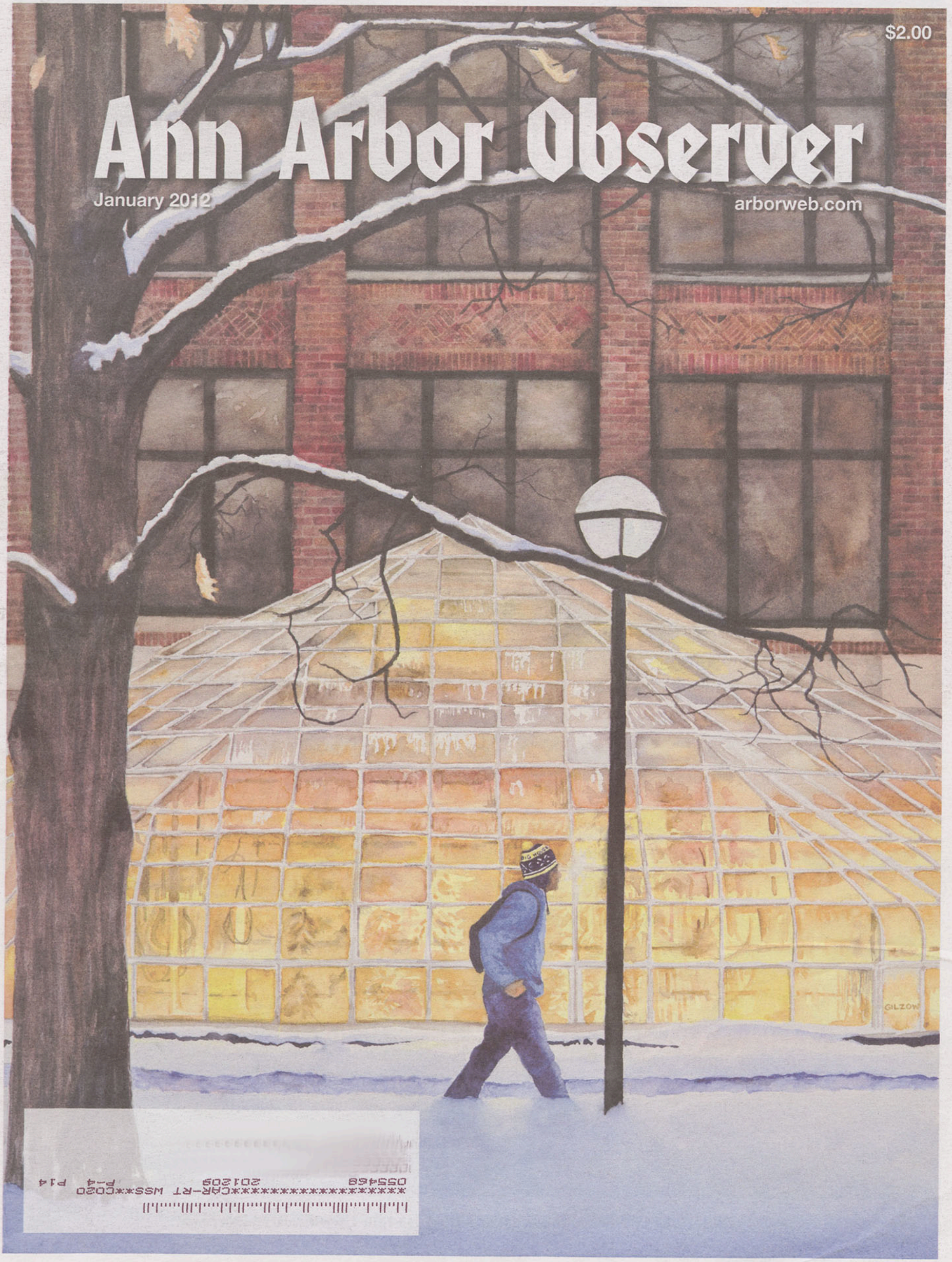

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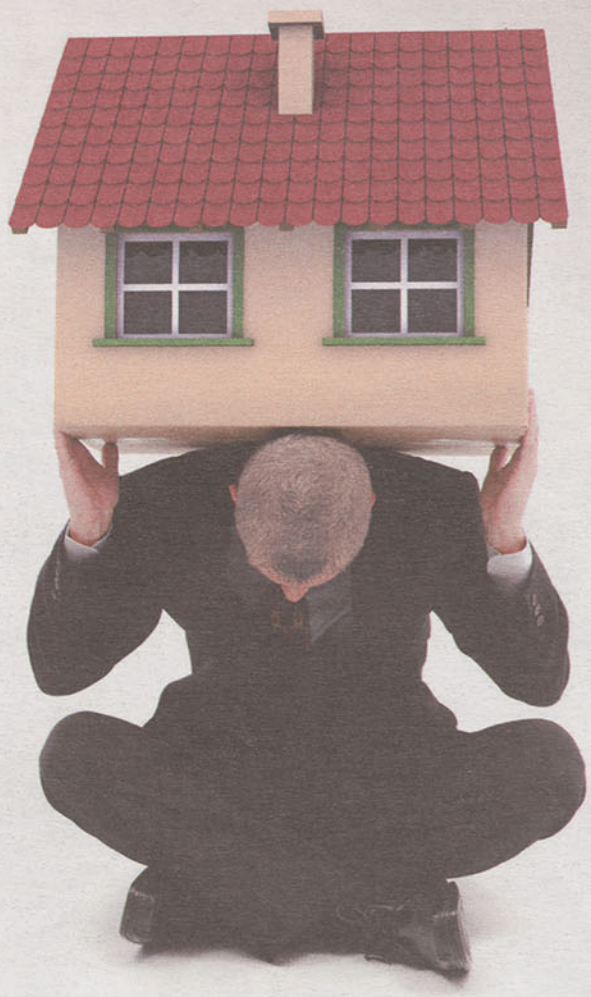

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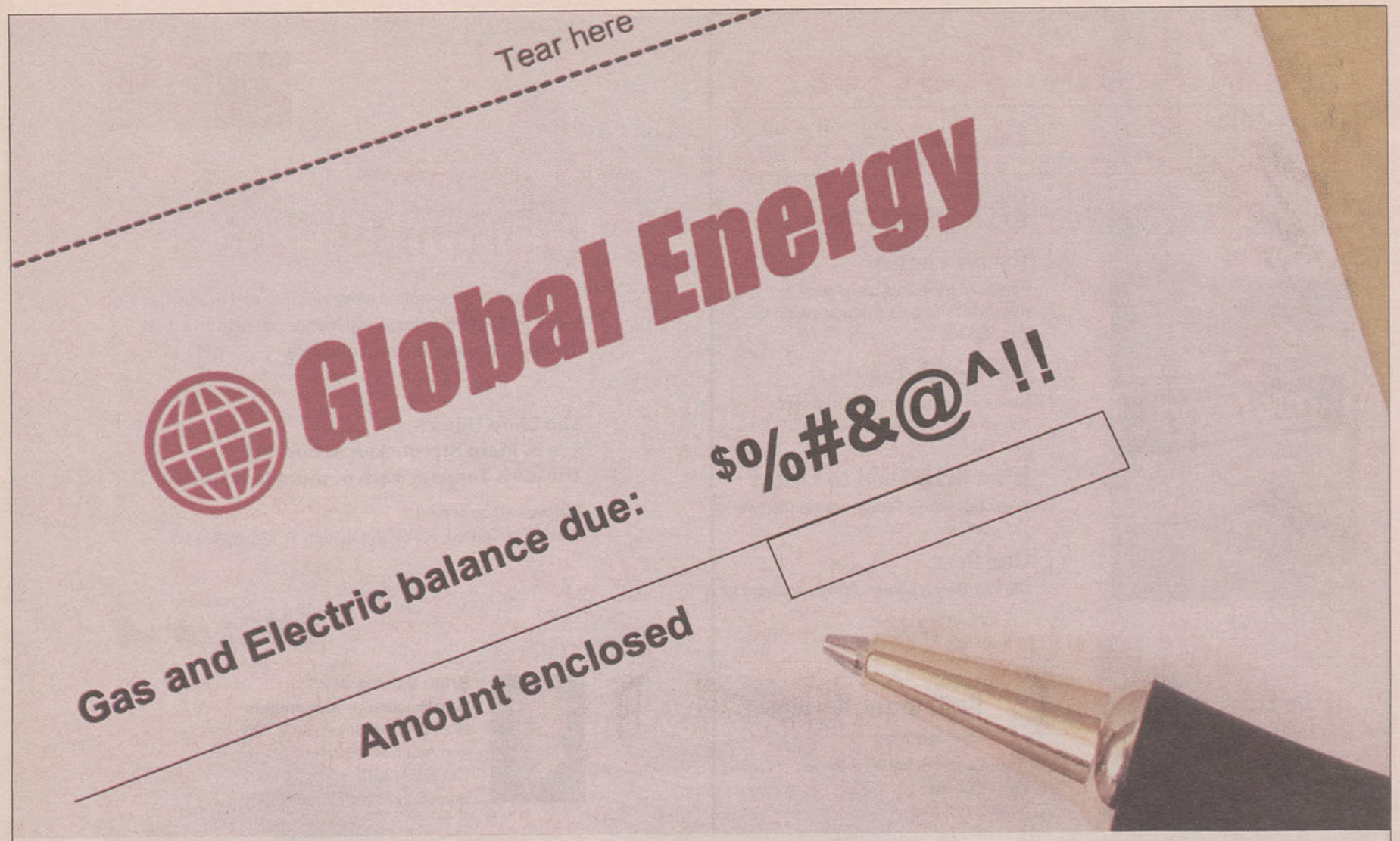

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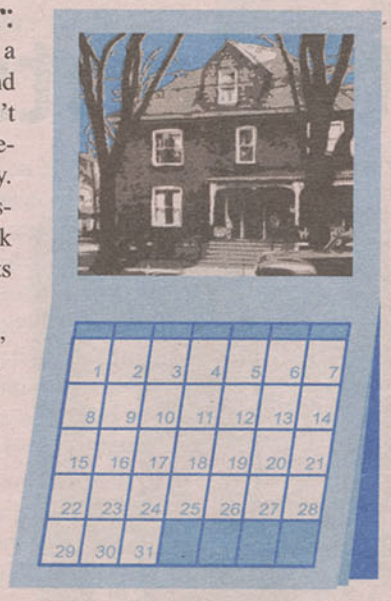
UpFront

Historic calendar: "We first thought about a book, and then a friend of mine said, 'Why don't you try a calendar?' " recalls Shirley Beckley. Thus evolved the "History of Ann Arbor's Black Community," now in its third edition.



Beckley, Jean Dixon, and Ophelia Brown work on the calendar all year. It's not available in stores, but last year they covered their costs by selling about 300 copies through their churches and to friends (they can be reached at blackdescendantsofannarbor@gmail.com or 971–1680). "It's not like a business," Beckley says. "We want to let people, especially the young people, know there was a black community here. There still is."

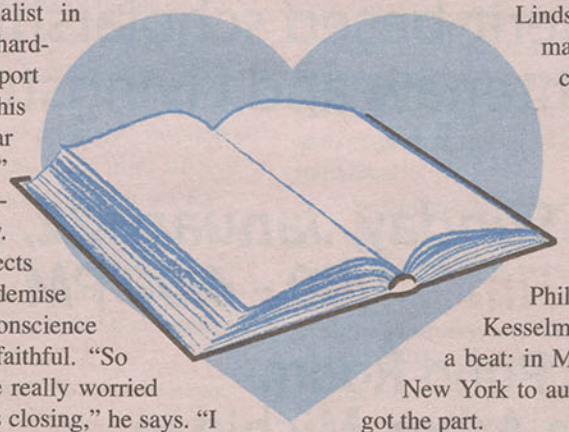
But the calendar focuses more on a bygone world. Until the 1960s, housing discrimination and poverty confined most black Ann Arborites to the North Central neighborhood, now the gentrified Kerrytown district. "It was a close-knit community," Beckley recalls. The kids went to Jones School (now Community High), and after class to the Dunbar community center (now Legal Services of South Central Michigan). "We went upstairs first," recalls Beckley. "We had to do reading and arithmetic. Downstairs was a pool table for the boys and a ping-pong table for the girls. And we had dances on Friday night!"

The calendar selection process is casual; the women brainstorm and then hunt down photos. Among the families featured in the 2012 edition are the late Richard Blake, for whom the Blake Transit Center is named, and his wife, Rosemarion, a Democratic activist; and the extended Baker family, who first settled here a century ago and are one of the few black families who still live in the old neighborhood.

"People ask, 'How do I get in it?' " says Beckley. "I say, 'If you grew up here, you can be in it.'" But not everyone is eager to be, in Facebook parlance, poked. "There's a doctor here in Ann Arbor, and she's shy, and she doesn't want to be in it," says Beckley. A ninety-something woman also is holding out, "but I'm working on her!"

Meter cheaters: Jammed meters are viewed as a lucky break by local drivers who figure they'll enjoy a free hour or so of parking until the city repairs the machines. Turns out the problem is usually not mechanical but the gleeful mischief of U-M students who prefer their spare change go to Starbucks, not the city's coffers. Recently, a parking enforcement staffer used a small knife to remove a nickel jammed in a meter at the Fourth and Catherine lot. He showed a curious pedestrian how the nickel had been deliberately dented to stick in the machine. "Happens about ten to fifteen times a month," said the official, resigned. "More on campus. It's the students." Unless the kids are caught in the act, he explained, "there's nothing we can do." Innocent or guilty, those who park at the plugged meters get a grace period (two hours) after the nasty nickels are removed.

Books are back: Borders' bankruptcy last year and the endless hype about e-books sent a collective shiver through the city's remaining booksellers, who also had seen Shaman Drum close in 2009. But as of mid-December, sales at Nicola's Books were up "very substantially," reports owner Nicola Rooney. Mystery novel store Aunt Agatha's and Motte & Bailey, a specialist in handsome used hardcovers, also report increases. "This is our best year in three years," says Motte owner Gene Alloway. Alloway suspects that Borders' demise shook the conscience of the reading faithful. "So many people are really worried about bookshops closing," he says. "I think people are making a bit of an effort."



Since Borders closed, Rooney says, she's seen more requests for "poetry and literary books," so she's expanding those sections. And through mid-December, she'd sold an astounding 1,000 copies of Ann Arborite John U. Bacon's *Three and Out,* about Rich Rodriguez's unhappy tenure as the U-M's football coach. At least at her Westgate store, Rooney says, Bacon is "up in the company of Mitch Albom and J.K. Rowling."

City slays dragon: Sandy Cadotte-Keys of Dragon's Lair Futons is the latest merchant frustrated by the city's draconian sign ordinance, which she believes unfairly hobbled her for the two years she tried to do business from a warehouse behind her former store on Liberty west of Stadium. When she put a sandwich board on a strip of lawn on Liberty, the city took it. The cops helped her get it back, but "[city planner] Chris Cheng said 'if you put it out again, I'll just take it.' I did, and he did."

Cheng admits he did take the signs: "It wasn't just her. We do sign sweeps every couple of months." While sandwich boards are permitted downtown as long as they don't obstruct the sidewalk, they're not allowed anywhere else. "Portable signs, banners, balloons—anything that's distracting and not permanent is prohibited," Cheng says.

That doesn't impress Cadotte-Keys. "Over twenty-seven years I paid $250,000 in property taxes, and I can't have one freakin' sign," she complains. She recently moved Dragon's Lair to the Furniture Center in Scio Township (see Marketplace Changes, p. 41), so she now has a retail shop again. Ironically, though, she does not yet have a sign: the center is waiting to fill all its floor space before hoisting its permanent signage.

Kesselman on the beach: Last year, a friend who appeared in the 1992 New York production of *Einstein on the Beach* asked local soprano Lindsay Kesselman if she would consider leaving home for long stretches to do an international tour with the Robert Wilson–Philip Glass opera. Kesselman didn't miss a beat: in May she flew to New York to audition, and she got the part.

After completing an intense New York rehearsal, she's back in town this month, rehearsing for the University Musical Society's presentation of *Einstein* at the Power Center (see Events, Jan. 20). Kesselman says spectators can enjoy the five-hour piece without advance preparation, but watching a PBS documentary about the original production, reading a biography of Einstein—"the more information you have of him, the more details you'll notice"—and listening to music by Glass will help set the stage. There are also a series of preparatory events in Ann Arbor this month.

Wilson, director and designer of the piece, is excited about the remount, particularly since "we are planning to reenvision *Einstein* with a new generation of performers, some of whom were not even born when *Einstein* had its world premiere." That includes the twenty-eight-year-old Kesselman. ■

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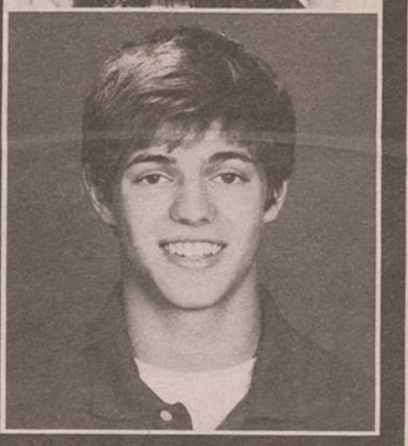

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Landlords Unwanted

The Battle of Minerva Road pits homeowners against student renters.

There are ten houses on Minerva, fourteen if you count corner houses facing other streets. Just one block long, it runs between S. Forest, where there are mainly student rentals, and Olivia, whose houses are mostly family owned. Minerva's homes, too, are mostly owner occupied—but every time one goes up for sale, some residents worry they'll be overrun by noisy students. Currently, two houses are rented, and a third has been empty since students left last May and is for sale or rent.

This past summer, homeowners Owen Jansson and Tony Pinnell began complaining to the city about landlords who don't comply with city codes. While rental properties must be registered with the city's housing bureau and inspected every thirty months, the two on Minerva were not registered and therefore not inspected. "If they [the landlords] think they can just shit on our doorstep in any way that abuses the law or code, I am all for kicking butt—but in a straight-ahead, proper, legal manner," Pinnell emails. He reported the landlords to the city, which required them to register and undergo inspections.

Bob Rubin, owner of one of the previously unregistered houses, isn't concerned—he says he's taken good care of the property and is sure he'll be certified. But he feels the system doesn't work—landlords pay multiple fees homeowners do not, he points out, and then pass the increased costs on to tenants. "I rent to professors or graduate students," says Rubin. "I hate noise myself." He's not pleased that some landlords let their properties run down. He's also not pleased with the actions of homeowners on "the lovely block" of Minerva. "My tenant, an MBA student, says there's a neighbor who's stalking them and yells at them if they just go outside."

Some homeowners suspect landlords encourage their tenants to exceed the city's occupancy limits by advertising "study rooms" that the renters use as additional bedrooms. But since occupancy is hard to prove, they are looking at parking lot laws instead; if an area is used to park five cars or more, it is by code a lot and must be paved and lit. "We are getting a very positive response from the city," says Pinnell, who also calls on the police frequently to quiet late-night parties and enforce trash regulations at nearby houses on S. Forest.

The rental-conversion trend may have escalated almost accidentally. Because so many U-M students come from affluent families, some parents buy homes for their children instead of paying for dorm rooms or apartments. Now that they can't sell them for what they paid, some turn these properties into rental houses after their children graduate.

The problem may de-escalate almost accidentally, too: with all the high-rise apartments going up close to campus, there should be less incentive for students to move to distant streets like Minerva.

GREG NAPOLEON

Minerva Street Homeowners Association president Owen Jansson (center) with his wife, Jane, and neighbor and fellow activist Tony Pinnell.

The Business of Tolerance

Domestic partner benefits get some unexpected support.

Since its founding by fusion two years ago, the Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional Chamber of Commerce has supported the election of Republicans Rick Snyder and Mark Ouimet and opposed a city income tax—all predictably conservative positions for business folks.

The chamber's latest public policy initiative is a lot less predictable: it's opposing a pair of bills in the state legislature that would prevent public employers from offering benefits to unmarried domestic partners and bar public unions from bargaining for them—a not-so-subtle swipe at the state's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens.

Though "defending" heterosexual marriage is a fixation for social conservatives, the chamber kept clear of the values debate. Leaders insist they made the call for solid business reasons.

"As a state, we cannot afford to be exclusionary when we're trying to attract and retain talent," wrote Sean Duval, the chamber's public policy committee chair and owner of Golden Limousine International, in announcing the chamber's position. "We are a better place because of the diversity of wonderful people who call this region home, and we want our public institutions to use every tool they have to attract and retain each and every bright individual."

"The impetus for our position was realizing the universities would be affected by this," Duval explains. "They're important parts of our community, and there's a strong business case to be made against these bills. The nation's best companies offer competitive health care benefits, and, from a talent standpoint, you can't take that recruiting tool out of the hands of our universities."

"Ever since the merger, we've been trying to show that we represent the whole community," adds Andy LaBarre, the chamber's vice president for government relations. "And we didn't want to miss the opportunity to make those points." Duval says the chamber's public policy committee, executive committee, and board were "overwhelmingly supportive" of the proposal. As with all the chamber's public policy decisions, the 1,266 members found out after the fact.

"I've had a few good comments from the membership since the announcement, not as much as I anticipated," says LaBarre, a former aide to congressman John Dingell. From the public, he says, "the feedback's been good. People were pleasantly surprised by the case we made from a business perspective. This has nothing to do with a social agenda." LaBarre says they've yet to get a negative comment.

No other chamber in the state has taken a position on the legislation, but LaBarre insists that the Ann Arbor–Ypsi

MARK BIALEK

Chamber staffer Andy LaBarre and public policy chair Sean Duval say allowing universities to offer domestic partner benefits is just good business.

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group has done nothing extraordinary. "I don't think our statement is setting the world on fire," he says. "It's really just a pretty common sense, Midwestern position."

Energetic Ingenue

Luna Alexander mixes it up.

After director Luna Alexander's production of *Fugue* for The New Theatre Project (TNTP) at the Mix Studio Theatre in Ypsilanti closed in December, Sarah Lucas's production of *A Body of Water* prepared to open in the same intimate space—featuring Luna Alexander. (See Events, Jan. 20).

Homeschooled through middle school, Alexander fell in love with acting after appearing in a Huron High School production of *Wit.* She turned down a soccer scholarship at EMU to study theater—not a surprising choice for the daughter of people who met while doing a show at the Ann Arbor Civic Theater.

Last season, TNTP artistic director Keith Paul Medelis extended the run of a show, and an actor had to drop out to honor another commitment. Alexander stepped in, and the heightened level of sensitivity and clarity she brought to the role took the show from just OK to top-notch. "She is incredibly selfless, and that's a fantastic quality in an actor as well as a human being," says Medelis. "She brings everyone into a scene with her, and the scene is automatically better." Recently, Medelis invited her to direct *Fugue,* which she staged with the same confidence and energy she brings to roles she performs.

Alexander says she gives every performance for her mother, who died three years ago. She's appeared in the Performance Network's Fireside Festival of New Works and at other area theaters; she's designed costumes, too—all while working on her degree at EMU, where she'll graduate this year.

A Body of Water is produced by Sarah Lucas's new theater company, Threefold Productions. Lucas, a 2010 EMU grad, says she wants to push the boundaries of traditional theater "by making strong script choices and incorporating bold design elements that force the audience into the action of the play." Lucas hopes working in the same space as TNTP will help build an audience for her new company.

Alexander may help both theaters thrive. She studies a story's time and place to help create her characters. "If you understand a character's environment, that's half the battle of understanding their behavior," she says, adding that she focuses on voice and body movements. "Acting," says the former soccer player, "is as physical a job as any sport."

GREG NAPOLEON

Cross-training: Alexander jumped from directing a play for The New Theatre Project to acting in one for Threefold Productions—in the same Ypsilanti theater.

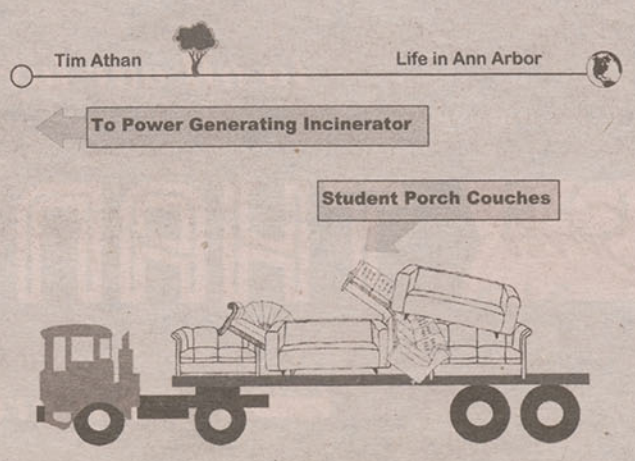
Updating the City Club

An erstwhile women's group adapts for the twenty-first century.

The Ann Arbor Women's City Club was founded in 1951 out of necessity: the crush of students at the U-M after World War II had made it difficult for women's groups to find meeting space at the university. "There wasn't a place where women could go, where they could connect with each other and forge happy friendships," recalls Mollie Dobson, a member from the beginning.

To meet the need, a group of energetic women raised the money to buy a large house at 1830 Washtenaw. It's still the clubhouse sixty years later—but as the role of women in the world has changed, so has the club.

The founders were well-connected women, wives of professors, professionals, and businessmen. "At first everyone wanted to join," recalls Dobson. New members had to have two sponsors and pay an



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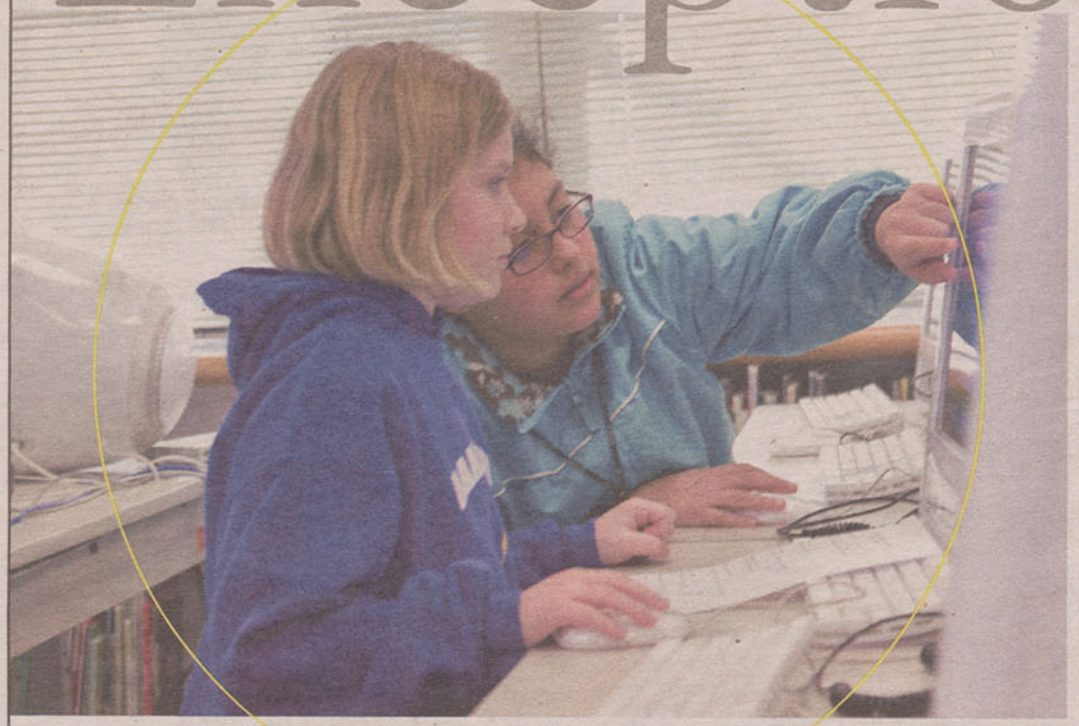

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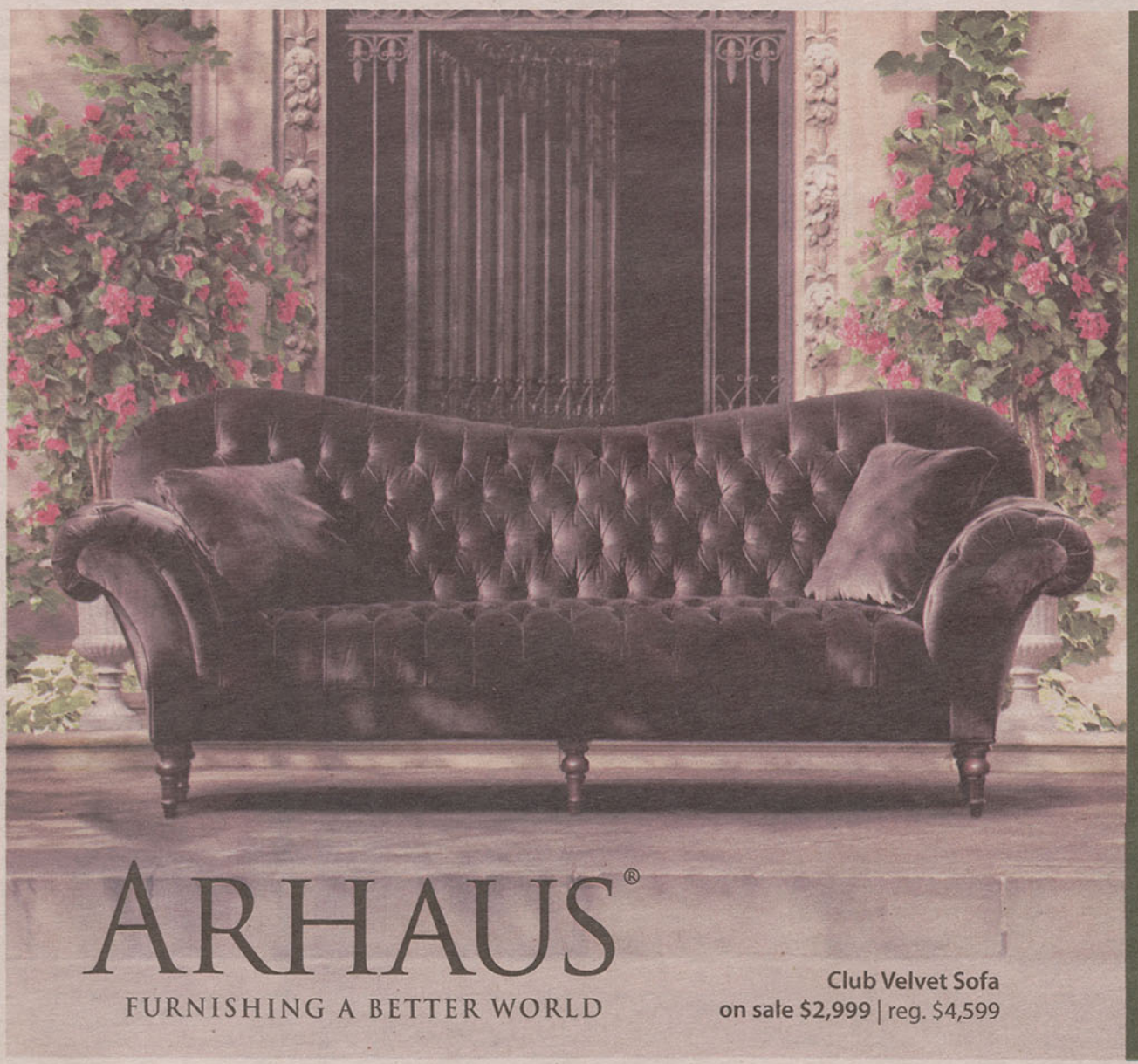

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Habitat for Humanity Huron Valley

Habitat By The Numbers:

1989: Year of our founding

13: Homes renovated in 2011

13: Homes received 5 Star Energy Star Rating

250%: Average increase in appraisal value of homes after a Habitat renovation

15: Homes to be renovated in 2012

106: Homes built to date

225+: Children live in Habitat homes

100%: Habitat families have an income

0%: Interest rate on Habitat mortgages

300: Hours of "sweat equity" homeowners invest

300: Average number of volunteers per house

11%: Habitat's low overhead costs

1:1: Number of homes built abroad for each home built in Washtenaw County

232,486: Hours volunteered in construction in 2011

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MARK BIALEK

President Millie Empedocles says the City Club hired Greg Fleming "to take us to the next level."

initiation fee on top of yearly dues.

In the 1970s, as more women worked outside the home, it became harder to recruit new members. Not only were women too busy, but many were no longer content to be defined as wives of someone important. At the time, many women's clubs across the country folded, but Ann Arbor had what Dobson calls "a hard core of members who would do anything for the City Club."

Club leaders encouraged working women to think of the club as a place that they could bring their clients and business associates. That didn't take off, but president Millie Empedocles says professional members did begin to use the facility for events. About ten years ago, the club dropped the sponsorship requirement and initiation fees and welcomed male members by changing its name to "Ann Arbor City Club." Today, seventy of the 425 individual members are men.

The club has worked at recruiting younger women. Empedocles, then in her mid-fifties, joined after an elderly friend told her she would win a free dessert if she brought her to the club. Kathy Sample, now fifty, joined at the urging of her mother-in-law, a longtime member. She's currently on the board, working on a marketing plan and running two popular etiquette classes for children.

Last April the club hired a new general manager. Greg Fleming, fifty-four, spent fifteen years as the director of the U-M's Camp Michigania. "We wanted someone to take us to the next level," explains Empedocles. "We've had good ideas that never went anywhere. We want to maintain what works while seeing what we can become."

To bring in new people, the club has organized a series of dinner programs with speakers (see Events, Jan. 25). A new chef, Todd Stapnowski, is updating the menu. And the club is looking into doing more volunteer work, either partnering with another nonprofit or organizing its own projects.

But with all these changes, Empedocles says "the social is still the huge thing. People make real friendships here. I find that ten years after joining, all my friends are people that I know here."

calls & letters

Crime and punishment

To the Observer:

The recent article "The Better Angels of Ann Arbor" (December) contends that world-record incarceration rates are causing the remarkable ongoing decline in crime rates in Ann Arbor and nationwide.

Notwithstanding politicians' claims, researchers know there is scant evidence in support. A look across our northern border is instructive: the US incarceration rate (prisoners per people) has quadrupled since 1980 and overall crime rate has fallen by about 40%. In Canada at the same time, incarceration went up a mere 10% and crime is down about 30% off its 1992 peak. Homicide rates declined equally in both countries.

And not to forget when discussing crime and punishment: cost-wise, two prisoners equal one police officer.

Sincerely,
Uli Reinhardt

question corner

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A: The warehouse was built after WWII by Gill Lumber. The company had its own railroad siding where freight cars were parked. Using a forklift, workers unloaded the cars and raised the wood to the second floor.

Fingerle Lumber bought Gill in 1966 and ran it as Arbor City Lumber for seven or eight years before combining the two operations. The building was then used as storage for A & L Auto Parts and the GT Products / Eaton factory. As part of the factory's conversion to Liberty Lofts, the warehouse was sold in 2006 to a company called Main and Madison LLCs. Soon afterward the city approved a plan to tear down the warehouse and build offices on its site, but that project has yet to materialize.

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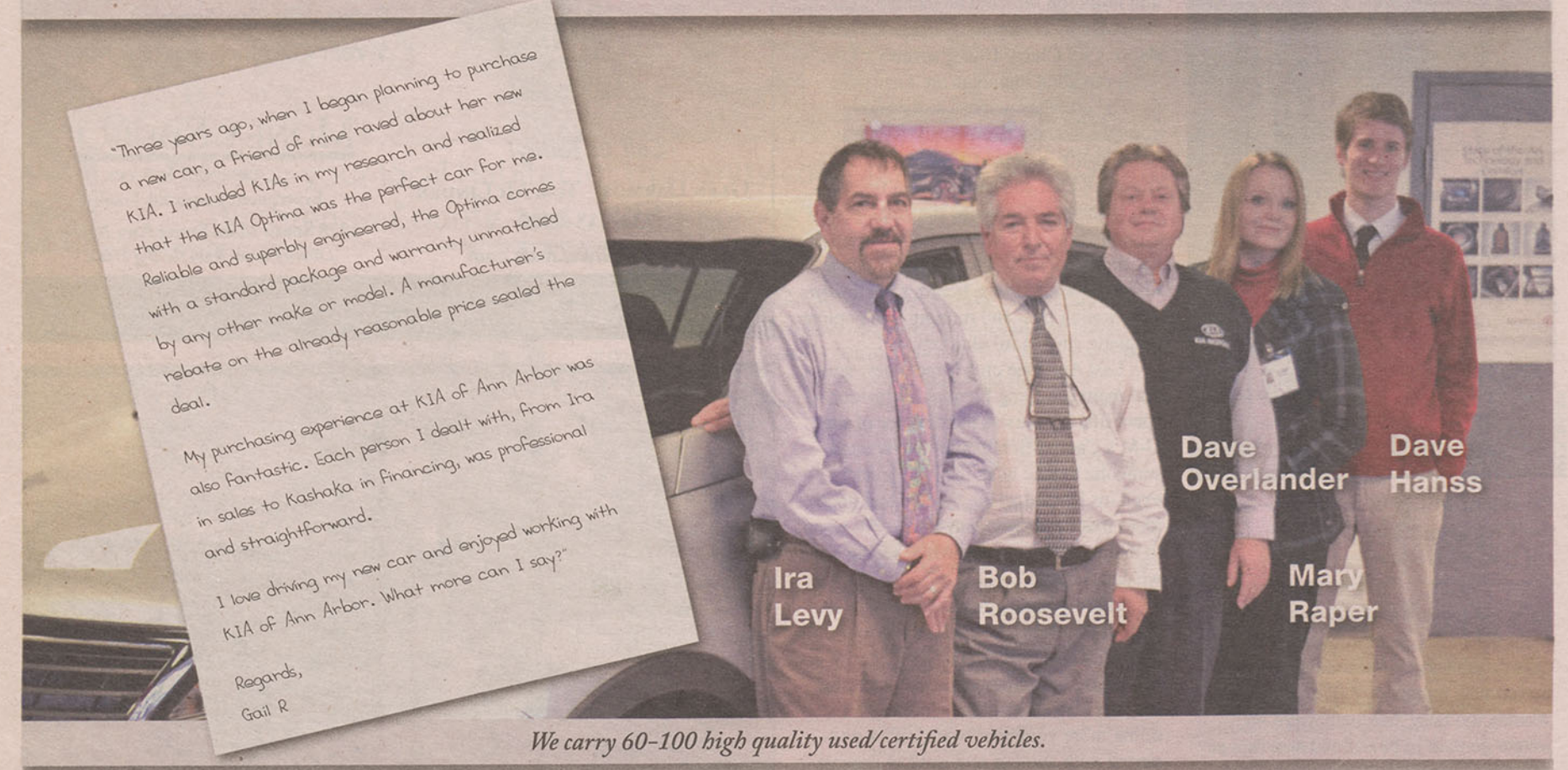
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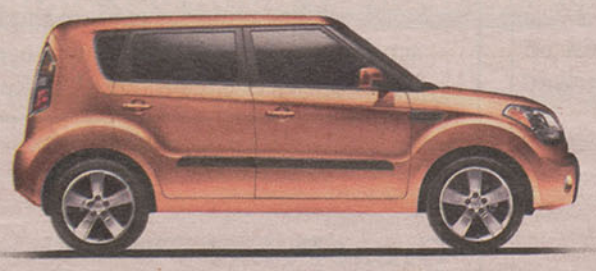

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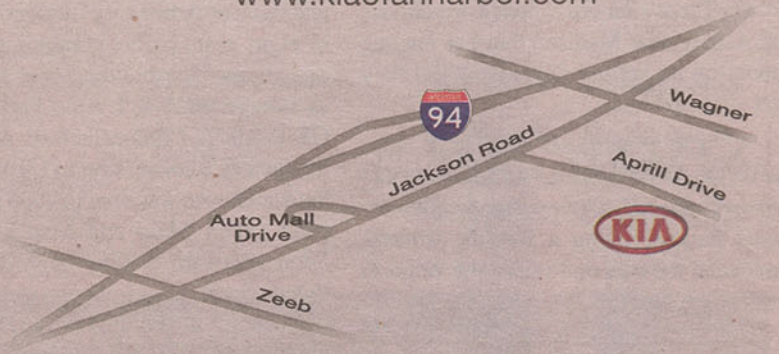
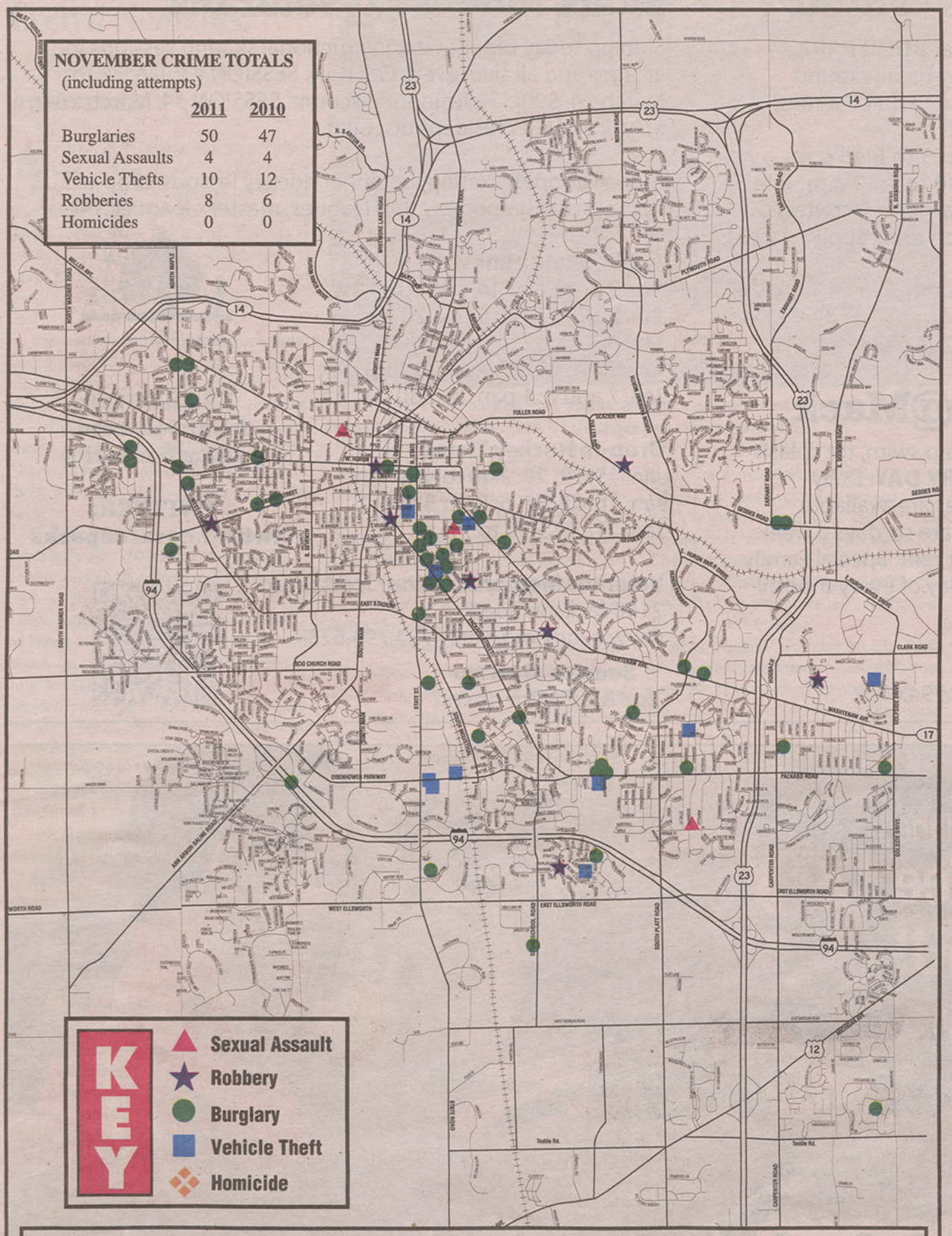


CrimeMap



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **November 2011.** Placement is approximate.

The Ann Arbor and Pittsfield departments are transitioning to a centralized record-keeping system run by crimemapping.com. They were unable to distinguish crimes from attempts, or sexual assults by acquaintances from assaults by strangers, in time for the Observer's deadline.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **944–1238 in Pittsfield.** If you have questions about a crime shown here, call **Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994–8775, Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.),** the **U-M Department of Public Safety (763–1131),** or the **Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944–4911).**

The box at the top of the map compares the number of crimes reported in November 2011 and November 2010.

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Jan. 7 and 8: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Drop-In Hockey Times
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Jan. 16, 23, 30: 6:30 to 8 p.m.
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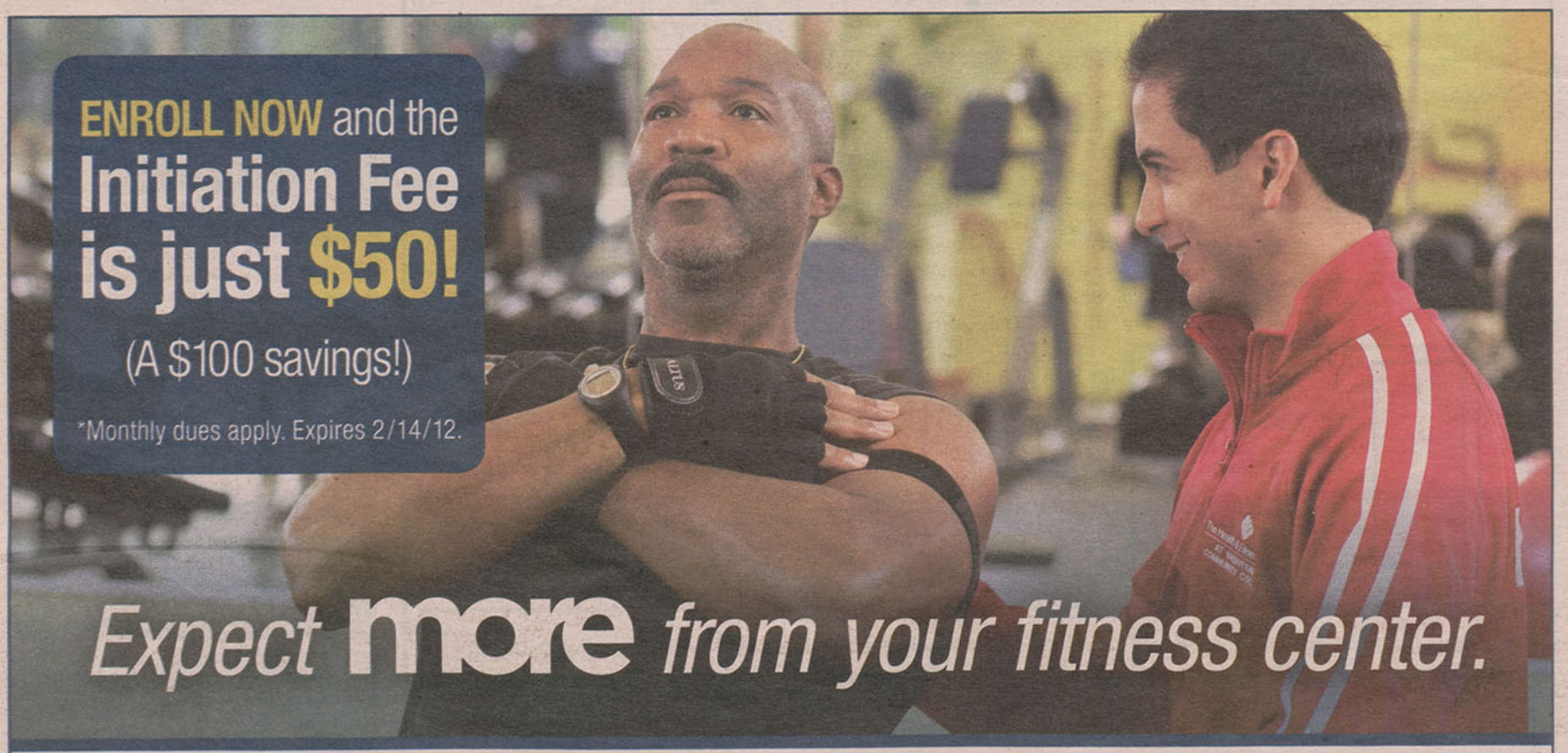

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Ann Arborites

Evelyn Neuhaus

A filmmaker inspired by her subject

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"The process of making this film is an opportunity for me to model myself after Irene," says Neuhaus (right, with subject Irene Butter).

As Evelyn Neuhaus sits in a coffee shop talking about her latest film project, her wheelchair is hardly visible behind the table—and she seems to prefer it that way. "It changes the way a person is perceived in the world, and I'll never get used to that," she says. "I want people to stop making assumptions about me."

Neuhaus used a wheelchair throughout her thirty-plus years working as a hospital and health care administrator at U-M and St. Joe's. Now, at age sixty-two, she is doing something even she assumed wasn't possible—working as a filmmaker. "I always had a fantasy about it but never thought that physically I could do it," she says.

Neuhaus has a genetic disease called Gaucher's (*go-shayz*), most common in Jewish people of eastern and central European descent. An enzyme deficiency causes fatty tissue to accumulate in cells—in Neuhaus's case, her bone marrow and bones. In her late twenties, after repeatedly breaking several major bones, she decided it was easier and safer to navigate life on wheels. She receives an intravenous enzyme replacement therapy that became available in 1991. It can't reverse the bone damage, but slows the disease's progression.

Her mother died of Gaucher's when Neuhaus was seven, but her parents never told their only child that she, too, had the disease. She found out during a routine physical in college. "Looking back, I think my father didn't tell me out of love for me," she says. But she thinks her anger about not being told may have "unconsciously" contributed, during her twenties, to those broken bones. "I just wasn't taking care of myself," she says. "I was being self-destructive."

Growing up in a family "shrouded in secrecy," she believes, may also explain her turn to documentary filmmaking. For several years, she volunteered at Community Television Network, where she learned interviewing and production techniques. After taking early retirement from U-M six years ago, she enrolled in filmmaking classes at Washtenaw Community College, where she found herself, she says, "mostly working with eighteen-year-old boys who like to make films about cars, guns, and vampires." The film she began to make as a student was of a different nature: an hour-long documentary on retired U-M professor Irene Butter, who as a young girl survived the horrors of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Neuhaus had met Butter about forty years ago, when Butter was a U-M professor of public health and Neuhaus was a graduate student. And they share a deeper connection: Neuhaus's Jewish parents fled Nazi Germany. Neuhaus began filming Butter's talks to schoolchildren about her German family's exile in the Netherlands and later imprisonment in Belsen. By the time the camp was liberated, Butter, fourteen, weighed just seventy-nine pounds.

The unfinished film, *Never a Bystander,* has taken on a life of its own. "It's become a film about how someone chose to be a survivor instead of a victim," explains Neuhaus. "It's about how she chose to live her life in an openhearted way." Butter is active in human rights work and co-founder of Zeitouna, an Arab-Jewish dialogue group. She also helped create U-M's Raoul Wallenberg Medal and Lecture, which honors contemporary heroes working in the spirit of the Swede who saved thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. Filmmaker Laurie White, who made *Refusing to be Enemies,* a documentary about Zeitouna, encouraged Neuhaus—an assistant producer on that film—to tell Butter's story.

Neuhaus explains that because her personality is so different from Butter's, "I'm constantly working at the edge of my comfort zone." A self-described "introvert," she knows the film will succeed only if she reaches out to the community. "The process of making this film is an opportunity for me to model myself after Irene," she says. She has hired out most of the camerawork but has handled the directing, producing, and some of the editing. She's raised about $8,000 for the project through friends and the Jewish community, but is still seeking financial support to complete and market the film.

Neuhaus's father was forced to drop out of dental school in Germany during the Nazi regime and later escaped to the United States via Africa. He was immediately drafted into the U.S. Army and sent back to Europe during WWII—"the last place he wanted to be"—where he served as a translator in a POW camp.

Her mother's family escaped Nazi Germany for Paris, then fled again, to Portugal, after the invasion of France. They, too, eventually reached the U.S., and her parents met and married in New York City after the war. Her father sold picture frames, her mother was a manicurist, and, Neuhaus says, they gave her a "solid middle-class" upbringing.

After Neuhaus's mother's early death, her maternal grandmother lived with them until her father remarried when she was nine. (She has a stepmother and half-sister who live in San Diego.) She graduated from the prestigious Bronx High School of Science at age sixteen, went on to major in genetics at Cornell, and followed a Cornell friend to U-M to study public health. She's lived in Ann Arbor since 1970, and earned both an MPH and MBA from U-M.

Except for a few years in the 1980s when she was married, Neuhaus has always lived on her own. She uses a nonmotorized wheelchair and drives her own car. Although she lives with fatigue and shoulder pain that "changes by the day," she emphasizes she does "not have paralysis." She tries to meditate daily, swims about four times a week—a "lifeline" that keeps her body moving—sings in the Temple Beth Emeth choir, and is a member of Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. A housekeeper helps her weekly with cleaning, yard work, and shopping.

Neuhaus's father also had lost his mother at a young age—just before his Bar Mitzvah—to breast cancer. "He was a broken man," she says. "He did the best he could for his family." She told her father's story in a short film. Now she's focused on completing Butter's story.

"So many films are made and sit on the shelf," says Butter. "My wish is that somehow it will be marketed—that she finds a way to get it out into the world." Neuhaus plans to offer it to school systems with a study guide, submit it to Jewish film festivals, and ultimately find a distributor for it. And when she does complete the film, Laurie White has already suggested a new project to her: a documentary on the life of Evelyn Neuhaus.

—Shelley Daily

Huron River Watershed Council

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The Joy of Geocaching

Treasure hunting in Tree Town

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Finding our local caches can be a challenge. One near the lower entrance to Nichols Arboretum almost drove me crazy. I ran to the "GZ" (ground zero) half a dozen times before I found the well-hidden container.

Eight years ago, a friend introduced me to the pleasures of "geocaching"—essentially modern-day treasure hunting with a high-tech twist. He was visiting my northern Michigan cottage when he mentioned it, and I had no idea what he was talking about. But he went online (geocaching.com), found the latitude and longitude of a nearby cache, and plugged it into his handheld GPS device. That led us across a farm field to North Frog Pond, where, fighting off mosquitoes, we circled around and finally found the well-hidden container. We signed the logbook inside and obeyed the instructions to take a photo of ourselves to post online.

Since my initiation, I've made 367 finds, most in Ann Arbor, a hot spot for the hobby. More than 250 caches are hidden here: the city website even posts "Guidelines for Placing a Geocache in City of Ann Arbor Natural Areas." (They include "obtain a permit" and "containers must be transparent.") The caches or containers usually contain small, inexpensive trinkets; if you want to keep one, you are honor bound to replace it. (I recently traded a Boy Scout merit badge for a golf ball.) I've also hidden twenty-one caches, after first getting approval from the geocaching web site. Once approved, the cache appears on the site with a description, coordinates, maps, clues, comments, and a variety of web links. The searcher then downloads the information to a handheld GPS—and the hunt is on!

Finding our local caches can be a challenge. One near the lower entrance to Nichols Arboretum almost drove me crazy. I ran to the "GZ" (ground zero) half a dozen times before I found the well-hidden container. Another in the Arb is currently giving me headaches. It's a "multi-cache," meaning you must go to one or more locations for clues to the final hiding place. Called "Nichols Arboretum Cashe," it comes with a clue that states, "Appearances can be as deceptive as a wooden nickel." I assume that the misspelling of "cache" is deliberate and has something to do with the dead ash trees at GZ. I have given those trees full inspection, so far without any luck.

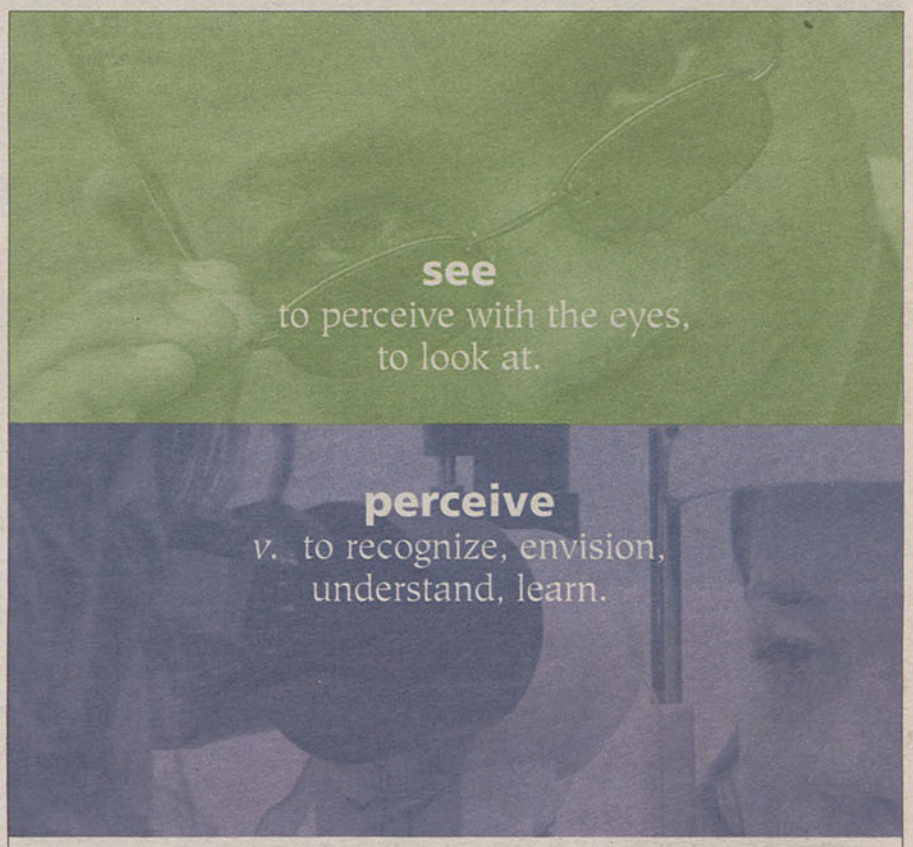
Most geocaches are planted outside, but there is no rule against indoor caches in places where the public has access. One multistage cache got me started in Burns Park. The container gave me coordinates that led to the U-M grad library; clues led me to a fake book in the reading room, along with a log sheet on which I could claim my find.

The best caches are well disguised. One might look like an electrical fixture, a birdhouse, or a rock. I've disguised a cache as a rock myself—and hid it by a pile of rocks near Mitchell Field. If you take up geocaching, that is one of seventeen you might find that I've created. There were twenty-one, but four have been "muggled"—destroyed or stolen.

The most recent to go was in County Farm Park, hidden in the hollow of a tree close to the creek. When I saw the extent of the Malletts Creek restoration project, I expected the worst and was not disappointed. The tree had met the axe during restoration.

Hiding and searching for geocaches has led me to scenic places I might never have visited otherwise. Satisfying as it was to find caches in the Stapp and Leslie Woods nature areas, discovering the lengthy, winding trails through woods and across streams there was even better.

—Bruce Laidlaw



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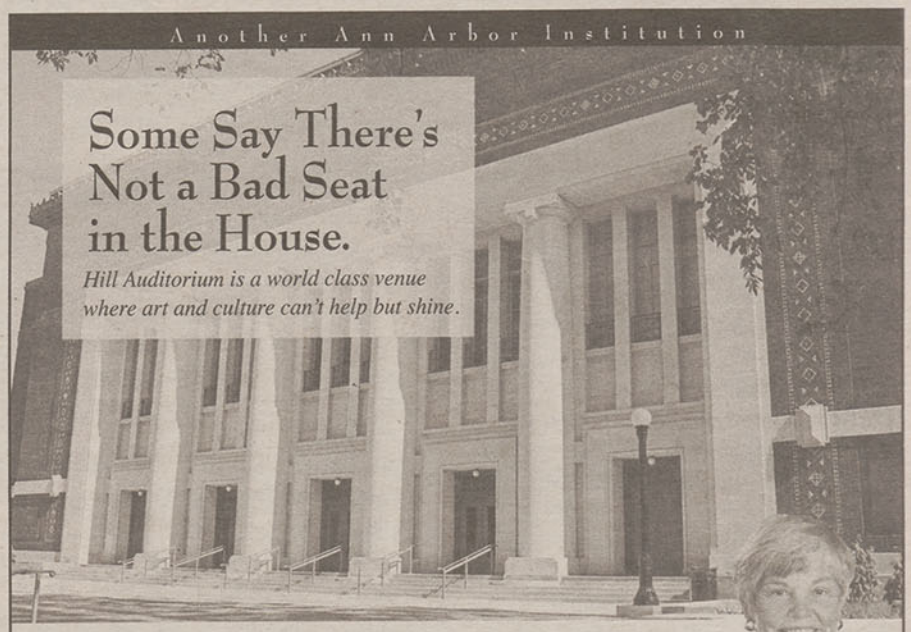

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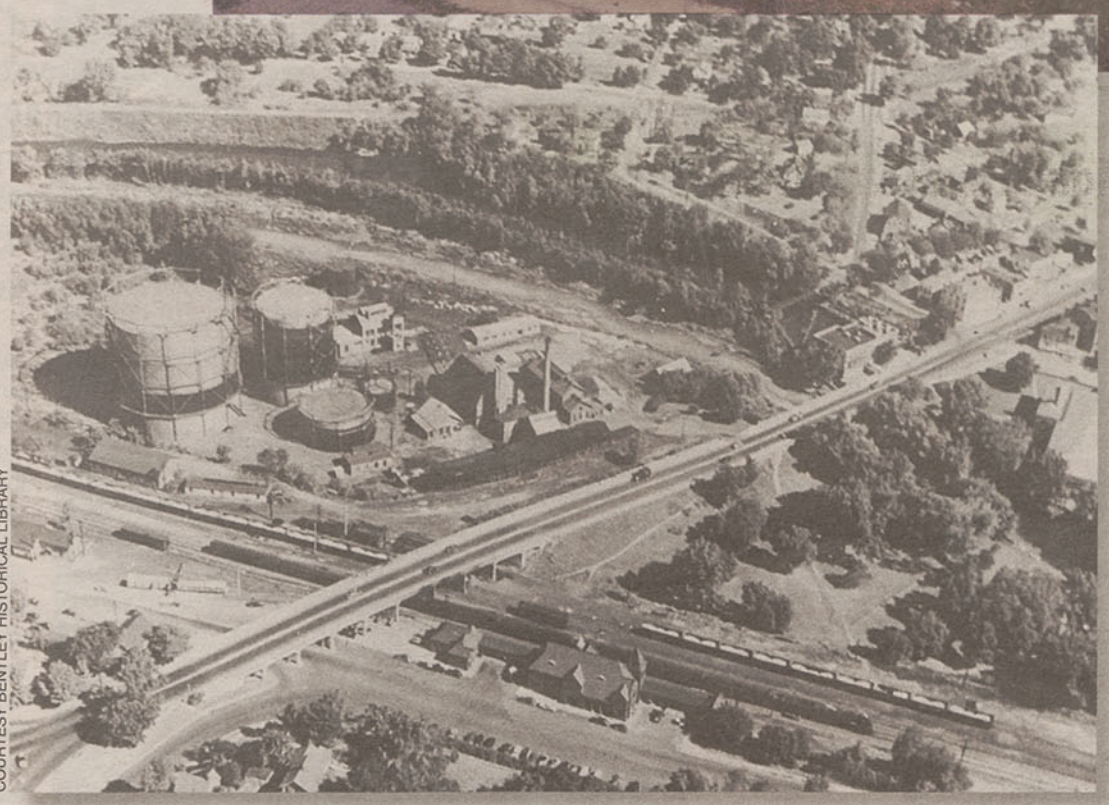
THE BIG CLEANUP

Poisoned by its industrial past, a riverfront site is getting a new lease on life.

by Jan Schlain

J. ADRIAN WYLIE



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(Left) The gas works on Broadway closed in the 1930s, but heavily polluted "hot spots" remain to this day. (Above) Fences protect the fourteen-acre site from unwary visitors. This month, owner DTE will submit a cleanup plan to the state Department of Environmental Quality.

From the east side of the Broadway bridge, a sidewalk winds down into Broadway Park, a peaceful pocket of lawn and trees tucked between the train tracks and the Huron River.

From the bridge's west side, there's also a distant view of grass, trees, and the river. But the foreground isn't nearly as picturesque: an asphalt parking lot, a graffiti-covered garage, and a concrete slab where a building once stood. And instead of an inviting path, the entire property is guarded by a tall chain-link fence.

Parking lots can easily become parks—and at fourteen acres, this bend in the river could be a jewel in the city's necklace of riverfront refuges. Or they can be redeveloped, filled with homes or businesses where residents or restaurant-goers drink in river views. So much open space, so near downtown, might be worth tens of millions of dollars. Yet the site's owner, DTE Energy, is in no hurry to sell.

The answer lies beneath. DTE has owned the property since 2001, when it acquired MichCon. The Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. was formed in 1937 by merging smaller utilities, including the Ann Arbor Gas Company. And until the first natural gas pipeline reached Michigan that year, this was Ann Arbor's gas-manufacturing plant,

On the surface, the site is safe enough. But if you "dig a little," says the DEQ's Vickie Katko, the level of contamination is "shocking."

where workers heated coal in a partial vacuum, collected the flammable gas, and piped it to residents' homes. The gas lit Ann Arborites' lights and heated their stoves, but manufacturing it produced noxious byproducts, including carcinogenic coal tar. Some of these wastes were left here, and the land cannot safely be reused until those highly polluted "hot spots" are cleaned up.

And that's why, more than seventy years after the gas works closed, this prime property sits vacant. But now that's changing. This month, DTE expects to submit a "response activity plan" to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to clean up hot spots and pollution near the riverbank.

It's just one step in what promises to be a long and expensive journey. But with U.S. Representative John Dingell and DTE chairman Gerry Anderson taking a personal interest, the prospects for bringing this bend in the river back to life have never been better.

It was Dingell who got the ball rolling, says Laura Rubin, executive director of the Huron River Watershed Council. Dingell and the Wolfpack.

The Wolfpack is a group of sixty business and community leaders organized by the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Office in Ann Arbor and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. Andy Buchsbaum, NWF's regional executive director, says that "one beautiful fall afternoon," Dingell invited the Wolfpack down to the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge on the Detroit River. It includes a number of rehabilitated industrial sites, and Dingell wanted the Wolfpack to join him in doing something similarly transformative for the Huron. "He challenged us," Buchsbaum says.

"I'm not really convinced it was a challenge," Dingell demurs. But he allows that "nothing in politics gives me greater pleasure" than cleaning up polluted rivers, and he waxes poetic about the flocks of "songbirds ... hawks and owls" that, after years of work, now live in the DIWR. He adds that "DTE and Consumers Power have been wonderful corporate citizens" in cleaning polluted sites, including some that he suspects were even worse than the old gas plant in Ann Arbor.

"So the Wolfpack, National Wildlife Foundation, and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters all came together and said, 'What kind of thing could we do?'" says Rubin. "We talked about this RiverUp! idea—a river renaissance." Rubin says the group is working to make it easier for canoeists and kayakers to navigate the river and pedestrians and bicyclists to explore its banks, as well as on "cleaning up the contaminated properties."

Gerry Anderson, DTE's chairman and CEO, is a Wolfpack member. He lives near the U-M's Matthaei Botanical Gardens' Dow Prairie, whose namesake, Alex Dow, ran DTE back when it was still called Detroit Edison. "Gerry Anderson loves Dow Prairie," says Rubin. "He said as they leave this [Broadway] site, he'd like to do something like that here—make it a resource for the community."

Rubin has been at HRWC for thirteen years, and this is by no means the first time people have talked about restoring the Broadway site. "Before this, every once in awhile, either a U-M faculty member or somebody would talk about 'Oh, we'd like to do something with that site,' or the city, during their PROS [Parks and Recreation Open Space] planning, [would say] 'Oh, that would make a great

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THE BIG CLEANUP

connector path for us,'" she says. "They were always sort of like … dreaming."

What makes her hopeful is that this time, she's seeing sustained movement toward actually doing something. Between the Dingell initiative and the subsequent discussions, "I feel like the cleanup process has really started in earnest and is really moving forward." But, she adds, "Nobody is going to take the property until the cleanup is done."

"The cleanup is kind of our next step," says DTE communication specialist John Austerberry. "A couple of years ago we deconstructed the building. I use that term because that was an alternative to traditional demolition, where actually we ended up recycling ninety-some percent of the material from the building. It took a lot longer.

"Our next step was to develop our plan for cleaning up the site, because we knew, based on the historical use there, and some previous investigation, that there were soils and some sediments along the edge of our property in the river that were impacted or were potentially impacted from the byproducts of the manufactured gas process.

"The primary byproduct of the manufactured gas process is a tar-like material. It consists primarily of hydrocarbon, with some trace amounts of metals such as nickel and chrome. One of the characteristics of this material is that it tends to remain in place. It does not migrate. It does not easily move through the soil … The only impact off-site that we've discovered is from ammonia, which is again part of the constituents of this tarry byproduct, and we've found ammonia concentrations in groundwater samples exceed the surface water standard for long-term contact by aquatic wildlife." He adds, "Now that's groundwater. Surface water samples from the Huron River are well below levels that are dangerous to humans, wildlife, or plant [life].

"Nothing in our investigation and analysis has found that the site, as it exists, presents any human health concerns," Austerberry stresses, choosing his words carefully. "Now that's not to say there may not be constituents under the ground that, at certain levels, could be a concern, but that's why we're going to remove them."

> The planned cleanup includes selectively removing contaminated "hot spots" and excavating polluted sediments from the riverbank.

Project manager Shayne Wiesemann says that MichCon and now DTE have been looking at the site since the 1980s, and "we have been removing hot spots for a couple of decades. We did a couple of large source removals in the mid-nineties and again in about 2006. We thought we had a good handle on where all the hot spots were, and we have addressed them. When the service center was closed and decommissioned at the end of 2009, we had a good opportunity to go in and do more investigation, and what we found is that there were more of these hot spots."

Weisemann, too, stresses that the coal tar residues "are highly immobile and underground, so we don't believe that there is [a health] risk associated with them." Vickie Katko, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's project manager for the site, concurs that it poses no immediate danger. But that's only true as long as the soil is undisturbed—if you "dig a little," Katko says, the level of contamination is "shocking."

Austerberry says the company has been working with the agency for the last year and a half, and will be submitting a proposal this month "to go in and selectively remove these hot spots next summer." In addition, says Weisemann, "we are going to be excavating some of the stream bank, because what we believed happened was when the old gas plant was demolished back in the fifties, it would have been just standard procedure for bulldozers to kind of push that material around, and some of the tars and some of the byproducts may have been pushed up against the stream bank. It looks like some of the shallow sediment, very close to the bank, is contaminated with some of these tars. While we are excavating some of the hot spots on the upland portion of the site, we're also going to excavate a portion of the stream bank and some of the sediment within the first ten or fifteen feet of the site, to make sure those tars aren't causing any adverse impacts."

This time, they won't be pushing hazardous waste around with bulldozers. Under Michigan environmental law, Weisemann says, DTE is required to prepare a "due care plan." Given to all employees and contractors who work on the site, it explains what the potential contaminants are and what precautions they should use in dealing with them. That's also, he says, why "the site is fully fenced and secured"—they don't want anyone who doesn't know what they're doing digging or doing anything else "that might make the situation worse before we can come in and do our remediation."

When they go in to clean up the riverbank and hot spots, "it will all be done with the close oversight of the DEQ," Weisemann says. "This is a really tried-and-true approach. Things can always come up, I guess, but we've had several meetings with the DEQ to make sure they're on board with our approach.

"We expect this to be a pretty smooth plan review and implementation."

The level of cleanup will vary depending on location. "For the upland portion of the site [away from the river], we still envision that being used as an industrial property," says Weisemann. "We're just

removing hot spots. For along the riverbank, we're going to take that to an unrestricted residential type of closure, so after our remediation is done, it will be as good as it was prior to MichCon coming in and utilizing the site.

"There is the potential for people to fish, to kayak and canoe. We want to make sure we do a good job."

The cost to DTE?

"Next year, we are budgeted for two to three million for this project."

The bill could be higher, says DTE environmental strategies manager Abed Houssari. But Houssari is optimistic that they'll get there. "I think everything is aligned properly on this project right now," he says.

"When we developed our cities, we had our backs to the river," says Rubin. "What we're trying to do here is reorient the faces of the community to the river, so we're embracing the beauty and the historical and cultural significance [of the river], and seeing the river as an economic driver."

Thanks in part to HRWC's efforts, many now hold an idyllic view of our urban river. On the National Wildlife Federation's local website, Mayor Hieftje is quoted as saying, "The Huron River is a wonderful place for walking, biking, kayaking, fishing, and other recreation … But we'd like to see it be even more, a place for music and art and even a restaurant facing the river. It is time for our communities to turn their face to the river, our greatest natural feature."

For the gas plant property, that Pygmalion-type transformation will not happen overnight. While supporters "have a pretty good head of steam," says Dingell, the cleanup and reuse "is going to be involved." This year's work is not the first on the site, and is unlikely to be the last. Asked how long that will take before the site is ready for reuse, Rubin replies, "Optimistically, three years. The range is probably three to ten."

Also unclear is how it will be used in the future. "There is a lot of talk right now, at a higher level than our level," Houssari says. "Ultimately, we are probably going to entertain some type of option where this property will be put back for benefit [of] the city. We don't know the how, we don't know the detail. All this will have to be worked out."

"Jerry Anderson's vision, to [return] this property back to the community for good use, is moving forward," says Austerberry, the PR guy. "Really right now we are focused on getting our remediation plan approved and doing the work. Beyond that, it is really premature to talk about what the next steps may be."

But this step, at least, is definitely happening. "We'll be looking to implement the plan through the fall," says Weisemann. "I think our schedule, as it sits right now, we will be completing it around November."

"As with any project," Houssari predicts, "we are going to have some challenges. But nothing we cannot overcome." ■

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THE **UN-FAB** TWO

How a pair of unheralded Hoosiers helped save Michigan basketball

by **JIM CARTY**

Zack Novak (above left) and Stu Douglass "play with a little chip on their shoulders, because they were not Big Ten recuits," says head coach John Beilein.

It was obvious at the beginning what Zack Novak and Stu Douglass were not.

They were not highly recruited. Neither was big, fast, or particularly athletic for his position. They were not going to play in the NBA.

They were parts.

In 2008, that was OK with Michigan's new basketball coach, John Beilein, who had a history of building basketball programs where the sum was much greater than the parts. It was not OK with a certain segment of the Michigan fan base, whose vision of how a basketball program should be built was forged by the Fab Five.

The sum didn't need to be greater than the parts when Michigan had Jalen Rose and Chris Webber. For fans who remembered Rose, Webber, Juwan Howard, Ray Jackson, and Jimmy King leading Michigan to the NCAA title game as freshmen—and then again as sophomores—it was hard to think about anything but individual talent. It was also easy to forget the ensuing NCAA investigation that forced Michigan to erase the Fab Five years from the record books.

Those fans at least understood Tommy Amaker, the guy Beilein replaced. Amaker ultimately failed, but early in his tenure he signed a top-rated recruiting class headlined by McDonald's All-American Daniel Horton. It wasn't quite the Fab Five, but it was the Fab Five model. You bring in enough good players, and good things would eventually happen. In theory.

In practice, Amaker's teams never reached the NCAA tournament, and after six seasons he was fired. In the fall of 2008, as Beilein started his second season, his prospects didn't look much better: he was coming off a 10–22 record, and his best recruits were Douglass and Novak—two kids from Indiana that nobody else in the Big Ten wanted.

There was open grumbling, not just about the new coach's inability to find the next Rose or Webber, but at his seeming indifference to the need. Michigan State fans joked that Beilein was remaking Hoosiers rather than remaking a Big Ten program.

Just three years later, Michigan is again a Top 25 team—and Novak and Douglass are its emotional hubs. They have been the two biggest on-court constants as the Wolverines returned to the NCAA Tournament and national relevance. They are still not NBA prospects, but more and more they are molding teammates with that potential.

And, no, they will never be Rose and Webber. But however this season turns out, it's already obvious what Novak and Douglass are: the two kids who proved that Michigan basketball doesn't need the Fab Five to still matter.

Novak is curly haired with an expressive face, sometimes showing concentration, sometimes frustration, but rarely neutral. At Chesterton High, in the Indiana's northwest corner, he was a four-time basketball MVP and broke the school's all-time scoring record by more than 500 points. Douglass, quiet and small for a basketball player, is from Carmel, a suburb of Indianapolis. Like Novak, he helped lead his team to a conference title his senior year.

By Big Ten standards, though, both were limited players, something their other college options reflected. The left-handed Novak, truly a coveted prospect in baseball, was considering leveraging a baseball offer at Indiana into a chance to walk onto the IU basketball team. Douglass was hoping for another Big Ten offer, but probably would have ended up at Harvard, where—ironically enough—Amaker was courting him. But Harvard, for all its academic cachet, does not offer basketball scholarships, and has never won an Ivy League title.

Three-point shooting was each player's only true Big Ten–level skill. At six-foot-four Novak was between positions—too big and slow to play on the wing, too small to bang inside. He looked soft, maybe even a little chubby, as a freshman. Douglass was listed at six-three, 170 pounds, and seemed even smaller. He had a point guard's body, but lacked a point guard's ball-handling skills.

But Michigan was starved for shooting—and warm bodies. The freshmen from Indiana started a combined forty-five games. Together they hit more than 100 three-pointers as the Wolverines went 21–14, beating Duke in December and earning Michigan's first non-vacated NCAA Tournament bid since 1995.

They brought more to the team than three-pointers. Douglass and Novak were culture recruits, contributing skills that went beyond shots and rebounds. Having taken three different Division I programs to the NCAA Tournament prior to coming to Michigan, Beilein knew the value of intangibles like work ethic and commitment.

"They play with a little chip on their shoulder, because they were not Big Ten recruits," the coach explains. "We needed a couple of guys who were just going to be team-first all the way, who could shoot the ball, but who were going to be extremely efficient as student athletes." The example set by Douglass and Novak, he says, "really helped us to help bring other kids along who maybe didn't come in with that package."

The package means basketball things, like studying film, being committed to the weight program, and knowing Beilein's complex offensive and defensive sets cold. It

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also means not missing class or study halls and being on time.

On some level, it simply means wanting to be here more than anywhere else.

"I heard yesterday that around 40 percent of guys [in Division I basketball] either transfer or go pro by the start of their junior year," Beilein continues. But Novak and Douglass "unpacked their suitcases for good, from the minute they walked on campus. This was their dream job. They were going to be at Michigan for four years, they were going to make it work, and that in itself matters.

"They were coming from an environment where it was all about fundamentals, hard work, persistence, no shortcuts. When you're building a team, the more guys you get with those things, who understand what it means to be a Michigan grad and how you get to be a good player, it's invaluable. They brought the two things together."

On the floor, Novak is an emotional leader—fist pumping, chest bumping, teammate checking. His most iconic moment came last January, when the Wolverines played No. 25 Michigan State in East Lansing. They hadn't beaten the Spartans at the Breslin Center since 1997, and Novak seemed almost manic as he demanded the win Michigan had been waiting for since he was eight years old.

Eyes wide, fists clenched, face red, he screamed:

"We're better than that!"

"You've got to trust each other!"

"You just don't quit!"

For all Novak's emotion, though, it was Douglass who coolly hit the game-winning three-pointer.

"We're very similar, but in a lot of ways we could not be more polar opposite," Novak says of himself and Douglass. It's the first week of November, and they're taking turns doing interviews in Crisler Arena's new locker room. "He's more … it's tough to describe. I'm more outspoken. A lot of times he would be the good cop, I would be the bad cop. He's more likely to be nicer, and I'm not hesitant to get into somebody. He's always so stoic. You can see it when he's playing. He doesn't need to get hyped and get into people's faces—and there I am screaming at someone."

Hearing this later, Douglass slowly nods and smiles.

"It's not like he goes and beats up guys and I have to console them, not like that," he says. "But he'll get after guys, and I try to be more of an encourager."

It's Douglass whom Beilein placed talented freshman Carlton Brundidge next to in the locker room. It's Douglass, Beilein points out, who takes Brundidge and freshman point guard Trey Burke aside—guys who are essentially fighting for the senior's minutes—and tells them what to watch for in games.

"It's like a great quarterback taking his backup and saying, 'Listen, if I'm not in there, you've got to be ready for this.'" Beilein says. "He's teaching, very quietly, off the court."

It is off the court where Novak and Douglass can pass unnoticed. Instead of team-

issued warm-ups or sweatshirts, or even the ubiquitous block M logos that dominate campus attire for athletes and non-athletes alike, they're dressed like any other two college undergrads, casually rumpled and mismatched, but in the kind of cool way you can only pull off when you're a college undergrad.

Two years ago, in the midst of an on-court chemistry meltdown that would see the Wolverines slump to 15–17 and the team's most talented player, Manny Harris, head for the NBA, Beilein remembers hearing about Novak sitting in class while another student complained about the previous night's loss.

"The guy right next to him was just blasting our team," Beilein says, chuckling. "Because we had lost a game where we shot too many threes. And Zack is just sitting there, taking it all in, and finally one of the hockey players says, 'Dude, that's Zack Novak, right there.'"

"It's something I kind of pride myself on," Novak says. "I don't go to class in all the basketball gear or anything usually. I just try to lay low. I don't want to say that I try to be a regular student—I am a regular student, I just happen to play basketball, too."

"It's funny, because we try to blend in, but we play basketball because we love the attention," Douglass says. "All athletes love the attention they get from playing their sport or playing well in their sport."

Just regular students … who happen to get the irony of trying to be Big Ten basketball stars and go unrecognized at the same time.

As much as the Fab Five became Michigan basketball, they were always something very separate from Michigan the university. There were no illusions on where the emphasis was in the phrase "Michigan basketball."

They had no chance to be regular students, nor did they want to be.

The new basketball model fits in, and almost certainly fits better off the court at a place that wants to see itself as something more than just another sports factory, even as it struggles with a history of hiding overwhelming numbers of athletes in a handful of majors.

Novak is in the business school and talks casually about interning with an investment fund in Chicago last summer. Douglass will graduate with a degree in economics.

At this level, the student-athlete equation is a tough one to balance. "People can tell you all the time—'It's going to be hard work' or 'You have to put in more work,'" but until you experience it, you have no idea," Douglass says. "You're in high school, and it's so easy. School is easy, basketball is easy, and you're getting all the shots, the coaches love you, your team is successful. And then you get here, and it's so much more work.

"So. Much. More. Work. Really, it's funny how much I enjoy just doing nothing now. You have so much school work and so much basketball."

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On the floor, Novak is an emotional leader; Douglass says he tries to be "more of an encourager."

In November's Maui Invitational, Michigan beat Memphis and UCLA and lost to Duke—all opponents that, like Michigan, expect to be playing in the NCAA tournament next March. As usual, Douglass and Novak were more steady than stars. Douglass averaged eight points over three games. Novak had twenty-two points in a win over UCLA and played a supporting role in the other contests.

If you compare their play in Maui to videos of their freshman year, the first thing you'll notice is their physical maturity: all the soft and skinny freshman parts seem to have either hardened or bulked up into muscle. That's the weight program Beilein praises both players for embracing.

You won't have to watch long to appreciate the difference in their games.

Douglass is a markedly better defender now, using angles and alertness to guard bigger, quicker players up and down the court. His feet and hands both look quicker. He passes better—still more like a converted shooting guard than a true point guard, but good enough to get by.

Novak is better with the ball and his feet—much more likely to drive into an open hole in the defense or create his open scoring opportunity away from the ball. He has a better mid-range game, full of floaters and pull-up jumpers when he needs them. He's crafty, usually good for one back-door layup a game, either as the scorer or the passer.

They're still not about stats. Novak will often lead the team in rebounding. Douglass can sometimes string a big bunch of three-pointers or assists together. But neither is going to leave here holding any statistical records.

What they have done is to make Michigan basketball relevant again. The funny thing is that by doing so, they've made it nearly impossible for future unknowns to do what they did, at least not as freshmen. With the Wolverines nationally ranked and back in the NCAA, Beilein is able to recruit A-list talent.

When Douglass and Novak leave after this spring, they'll be replaced by a couple of Hoosiers with NBA prospects: Mitch McGary, a six-foot-eleven center who's generally ranked as the second-best high school prospect in the nation, and Glenn "Tre" Robinson III, an athletic forward who has developed into a consensus Top 25 prospect. Joining McGary and Robinson will be Nick Stauskas, a deadly six-five shooter from Canada, another Top 100 prospect.

McGary is also from Chesterton. Before heading to a New England prep school, he played on the junior varsity when Novak was a senior. Novak hosted him on his visit to Michigan and undoubtedly influenced his decision to pick the Wolverines over Duke.

"As much credit goes to Beilein and [assistant coach] Bacari Alexander, you have to put Zack Novak right up there in getting McGary," says Sam Webb, recruiting analyst for GoBlueWolverine.com. "He was a huge character witness for this program. Without Zack Novak, do you get Mitch McGary? I don't know."

McGary is more Fab Five than any player Beilein has ever coached, at any school—both an opportunity and a challenge. He's "an upper-crust talent put on a team where the reason they're good is because the sum is greater than the parts," observes ESPN recruiting analyst Dave Telep. "The structure is going to be a change for Mitch McGary, and the star power is going to be a change for Beilein. How those things come together in that petri dish will determine [the outcome of] the experiment."

In the meantime, though, there is one final go-round for Douglass and Novak.

Last year's best player, Darius Morris, declared for the NBA draft after his sophomore year, so they're helping to break in new point guard Trey Burke. Douglass has already ceded his starting spot to the freshman. Having a rookie at point is a challenge in Beilein's complex offense. Though Burke has shown the talent early in the season, it's certainly not the best situation for two seniors who, like every senior in college basketball, want to go out with one of those big NCAA Tournament runs.

The big NCAA run is probably the last piece of the legacy, the biggest thing that still separates them from the ghosts of Michigan's past.

"This program, it isn't back to where it was in the 1990s," Douglass admits. "They had results. They went to the national championship game and had a lot of success.

"But I think these are the right building blocks that needed to be laid down to establish the framework of everything Coach Beilein is going for. Hopefully people look at these four years and say this was the right way to build a program. It's still not where we want it to be, but they did everything they could and it's headed in the right direction. And this year … well … we'll see." ■

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FROM Briarwood TO Costco

The south side's shifting retail landscape

Elegant regional mall or middlebrow strip mall? Hard to tell looking at the MC Sports store in Briarwood—it's got bolder signage than any of the mall's department stores. Former landlord Tom Goldberg suspects the big mall aggressively wooed MC to fill a hard-to-use spot.

PHOTOS J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The retail elephant in the room is Costco, now rising at the corner of State and Ellsworth. The question is whether the warehouse club will suck the life from competing businesses, or reinvigorate the entire south side.

by Sally Mitani

When Briarwood Mall opened in 1974 it looked less like a shopping center than a museum. Its cast-concrete exterior was carefully sculpted, and art installations and fountains adorned its broad, polished corridors.

Now those corridors are overrun with so many kiosks and food counters and promotional displays that it's starting to look like a Turkish bazaar. And recently, a local business watcher pointed out a more subtle shift we'd missed: last year, when MC Sports moved from Oak Valley Centre to what was once the mall's movie theater, it was allowed to put in an outside entrance.

Briarwood is known in the trade as a regional mall. Regional, enclosed malls are for leisurely destination shopping, not quick stops for batteries and shampoo, and that status is enforced by limited access. Now Briarwood had not only recruited a tenant from a low-rent strip mall, it had given that tenant strip-mall-like access. Our observer took that as a sign that the cachet of the regional mall is fading.

Ida Hendrix, manager of Briarwood, says MC Sports got its own entrance because it asked: "The theater never requested an outside entrance." She notes that besides the department store "anchors," several other tenants have been granted parking lot entrances, including Tricho Salon near Penney's—"they've been here since around 2003."

Hendrix says she was happy to give MC Sports the access it wanted. "They're used to opening up a little earlier, so that door works well for them. I considered them an anchor because of their size." And it's true—MC Sports is now listed as a "major retailer" on the mall's promotional brochures. (While big for an interior tenant, it's tiny compared with Macy's, Sears, JCPenney, and Von Maur.)

And what about the Turkish bazaar going on in the aisles? In late 2011, Briarwood seemed to have about eighteen carts and ten kiosks (larger, more permanent structures) selling phones, scarves, jewelry, and that perennial favorite of mall hawkers, Dead Sea salt cosmetics. It also had four large food concessions in the center court, and all the halls were dotted with gum and pop machines, as well as promotional displays like cars and bathtubs.

If this is the new face of the enclosed mall, what is happening at the strip malls?

Ed Rix, MC Sports' vice president of marketing, says there's nothing wrong with Oak Valley—it's just that the Grand Rapids–based chain is adding hunting and fishing sections, and its old spot just wasn't big enough and visible enough. But for Oak Valley and its smaller sibling across Waters Road, Village Centre, MC's departure was just one of a string of losses.

Both are owned by Tom and Fred Goldberg, Detroit-area developers who also own four other nearby strip malls: Woodland Plaza (Busch's), Cranbrook Village (Whole Foods, REI), the Colonnade (restaurants), and Waters Place (Best Buy, Kohl's). Though those all seem to be doing quite well, Oak Valley and Village Centre are clearly hurting. MC's spot is one of six vacancies at the back end of Oak Valley; Village Centre has four spaces available.

But Tom Goldberg says those vacancies have nothing to do with the regional mall down the road. "We're not in the same galaxy as Briarwood because of the pricing model," he says. "There are two categories of tenants: they're either mall based or off the mall. It's not common that they cross paths."

That they crossed paths here suggests to Goldberg that Briarwood wooed MC with an extraordinary deal. If the only motives were space and visibility, the Goldbergs had a bigger, more visible spot available at Waters Place. But Goldberg says MC never even asked about it.

"That's what leads me to believe that they were aggressively pursued by the Simon Property Group [Briarwood's owner]," Goldberg says. "I think the [deal went down] as follows. Briarwood had that old theater, which was an obsolete asset. To retrofit it to a new store made a lot of sense. And I'm quite confident, knowing how MC operates, they made a very opportunistic move. They did it when the market was upside down."

Goldberg blames his vacancies on the banks. "Oak Valley and Village Centre are more dependent on smaller, local tenants. That part of the market is very stressed because of the availability of financing dollars. If you're a local entrepreneur, it's very difficult to get a loan from a local bank or credit union."

He says he has new tenants lined up for many of those spaces. "I don't want to jinx myself by mentioning names, but my point is it's been difficult for those types of businesses." And he says he's optimistic overall: "Contrary to the doom and gloom we're bombarded with on a daily basis, I think the Ann Arbor market is doing nicely. We're fortunate to have a better employment rate and a better wage rate than a lot of Michigan, and it's reflected in retail sales."

The retail elephant in the room on the south side of Ann Arbor these days is Costco, now rising on the corner of State and Ellsworth. The question is whether the warehouse club will suck the life from competing businesses, or draw so many new customers into the area that it will reinvigorate the entire south side. After Briarwood itself, no one stands to win or lose more when Costco opens than the Goldbergs.

Tom Goldberg thinks it will be either a win or a wash. He calls Costco a "with it" retailer. "You can count on your hands the number of retailers that fall into that category. Target is one of them; Whole Foods, REI. They have good products. They understand how to price products fairly, and they understand good service."

Target, REI, and Whole Foods are, of course, all his tenants. "At the end of the day," he predicts, "I think we will all peacefully coexist." ■

SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the city's Public Services Area clears over 98 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, city crews sand the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and city-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The city snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the city and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 794-6367.

*** On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses**– in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

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SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the city depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City Council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The city reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than one inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

WASTE & RECYCLING

Place trash and recycling carts in a clear street or driveway by 7 a.m. on your weekly collection day, with 3' between each cart. Special pickup (disabled) customers must provide clear walkways to trash and recycling carts. Access to dumpsters must be clear of snow and ice.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised November 2010

Our Deer

Southern Michigan's deer herd has grown five-fold in the past twenty years. That's bad news for gardeners, motorists, and the environment.

Browsing on Broadway.

by Margaret A. Leary

Seeing more deer lately?

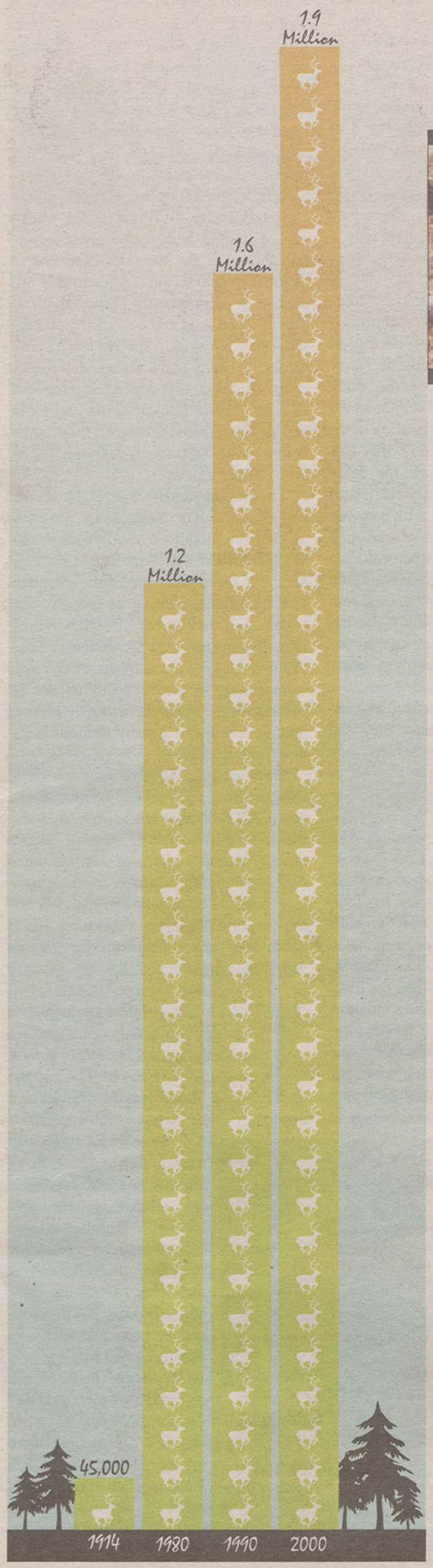
My Newport Road place has a doe and two fawns, who ate all my hostas, roses, and lilies; the Arboretum houses a herd of six to ten, foraging away trilliums and rubbing the bark off trees; fifteen marched regally across a frozen Barton Pond a while ago; and up to three dozen gather at the top of the Broadway hill, where they've eaten yews and even ivy down to nubbins.

City council member Sabra Briere lives on Broadway. She took the photos above. "I love living near the deer but am not so enthusiastic that I don't see a problem," she says. "There are accidents involving deer and cars; I see broken deer regularly, and many of my neighbors speak softly about venison. I've found DeerOff works well for my tulips. As you can tell, nothing works for pumpkins."

What's going on?

A century ago, deer were hunted almost to extinction in Michigan—in 1914, the state game commissioner estimated that just 45,000 survived in the state, all of them in the Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula. But they are extraordinarily fertile creatures, and once the state limited deer hunting their numbers rebounded with astonishing speed: within twenty years, there were more than a million. Through the middle of the twentieth century, the population varied between half a million and a million, depending mainly on habitat, hunting rules, and the harshness of the winters.

By 1980, the statewide count hit 1.2 million. By 1990, it was 1.6 million, and by 2000, 1.9 million—a figure that has held, with occasional downward fluctuations, ever since. And every bit of that increase has come in the southern Lower Peninsula. In the past thirty years, the number of deer living in the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula has actually declined, as forests reclaim the semi-open landscapes they prefer. But farther south, the population exploded, from 200,000 to a million deer. That's an increase of 500 percent. By comparison, in that same time period the human population of Washtenaw County grew just 31 percent.



Adele Laporte lives in Barton Hills, just north of Ann Arbor. She shows me the impact of deer browsing on her sixty-five-year-old hemlocks: there are no branches for seven or eight feet from the ground. I see chewed-down spruces as she describes long-gone hostas and yews and notes the dearth of seedlings in her oak-hickory forest, all become deer chow.

Laporte clearly remembers the first time she saw a deer in the village: it was in 1982. But all you need to know about the rate at which deer can multiply is in the title of a study done in 1937 at the U-M's E.S. George Preserve near Pinckney: *Six Deer Produce 160 in Six Seasons*. By 2000, the DNR estimated that Barton Hills was home to 600 deer, and the village council hired a sharpshooter to thin their numbers.

> Adele Laporte clearly remembers the first time she saw a deer in Barton Hills: it was in 1982. By 2000, the village was home to 600.

Village clerk Jan Esch says that worked for a while, "because the farmers in the surrounding area also got culling permits, so it wasn't just us." A quick check of the online village council minutes shows that as recently as March 2009 the council wanted to "restart deer thinning as soon as possible." Laporte, who led the council during one phase of the "deer wars," says nothing was done, however. Opposition came from "residents who remembered the earlier, badly managed" program, during which several deer were shot on nearby farms without advance notice, terrifying unsuspecting residents.

Other towns have had similar experiences. Both Grand Haven and Rochester Hills also tried sharpshooters and also gave it up: the political pushback from animal rights advocates wasn't worth the short-term benefits, as new deer quickly replaced those killed.

Barton Hills has left its deer alone for several years now, and Esch believes their numbers are again on the rise. Nonetheless, she doesn't expect any further attempt to thin the herd "unless we hear a public expression of desire to do that. Most recently, we heard only objections to culling."

Deer are undeniably beautiful. But it's also undeniable that southern Michigan has too many of them. State law directs the Department of Natural Resources to use "scientific management" techniques "to develop and conserve a healthy deer herd in balance with abundant and well-managed habitat …, to chart a course for Michigan deer, for hunting, and the management of young forest habitats on which deer and other species of wildlife depend." This quote is from the DNR's 2010 *Deer Management Plan*, which the agency is in the process of implementing.

Yet the 2010 plan doesn't say how many deer is enough. That doesn't sound like "scientific management," and it isn't; the reality is that Michigan's deer population is a political issue. And there is too much conflict between hunters—who want more deer—and farmers, gardeners, forest managers, and motorists—who want

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Our Deer

fewer—to reach agreement on a number. The last time the DNRE set numeric goals was in 1996.

In Washtenaw County the 1996 goal was twenty-three deer per square mile. In 2008, the most recent year for which figures are available, the DNR estimated the actual population at about thirty-five deer per square mile—55 percent more than the goal. The DNR calls the county a "deer magnet." It has abundant cropland, where deer love to graze, and forests, where they like to hide out and browse. And only 4 percent of the land is public and thus open to hunters.

There is now one deer for every fourteen humans in Washtenaw County. Each eats about 2,000 pounds of food a year. One might ask: 2,000 pounds of what? Landscaping, we know. Crops, too. Back in 2000, a local farmer told the Observer that on fields where he was allowed to hunt deer, he was harvesting fifty-five bushels of soybeans per acre. On fields where he couldn't hunt, his yield fell to thirty-five bushels. That fits with research at Michigan State University, which found that deer caused a 24 to 43 percent crop loss in dry beans, and 19 percent in alfalfa.

When deer are so numerous, crop loss and landscape damage are only the beginning of the problems they can create. Deer also damage the habitat of many other creatures, directly and indirectly: they destroy the forest understory and native wildflowers such as trillium; they leap into the paths of moving vehicles; and they carry diseases that can pass to humans or domestic animals.

At the U-M's Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Dixboro Road, natural areas manager Jeff Plakke tells me, ten-foot-high fencing now protects the formal garden beds from being eaten by deer. It's an expensive solution that involved clearing for and installing the fences, which will require continuous monitoring and repair. But before the fences went up in 2006, horticulture manager Mike Palmer says, the deer devoured yews, perennials, and even whole plants in the rock garden. They also walked up the steps to the concrete porch to sneak into the perennial garden until gates were installed to stop them.

Out in the gardens' natural areas, all newly planted and even volunteer trees and most shrubs get a protective wrap of six-foot-high wire. Plakke shows me two pairs of ten-foot-by-ten-foot plots that were set up in 2006. In each pair, one area had been fenced to exclude deer and the other left open. The enclosures, even on a late October afternoon, were noticeably healthier, with taller oak seedlings and more and healthier native plants, including Culver's root, little bluestem grass, and goldenrod.

Randy Baker, a Columbiaville, Michigan, naturalist who spoke about white-tailed deer at the Botanical Gardens in October, explained the implications of this change in plant growth. Particular plants provide seed food and cover for particular species of birds; each species has its preference. When a plant variety disappears, so may the birds that depend on it for food or cover. Baker himself hunts pheasants, and he has noticed a drop in their population, which he suspects is caused by increased deer grazing.

Three hundred years ago, Plakke notes, wolves, mountain lions, bears, coyotes, and humans all hunted deer in what is now Washtenaw County. Now, all but the coyotes and the human predators are gone. The state limits hunting by humans, and coyotes kill only fawns. (But they do relish them: my research found that in Cook County, Illinois, the contents of coyotes' stomachs are 42 percent small rodents; 23 percent fruit; 22 percent fawns, 18 percent rabbits, and only 1 percent domestic cats, thank goodness).

Deer are bad for birds in more ways: from my dining room window I watched a deer suck sunflower seeds from my pole-mounted bird feeder. A Google search quickly found a photo of a white-tailed deer lunching on nestlings from a savannah sparrow nest and another of a deer eating songbird eggs, plus a magazine article about deer "opportunistically feeding" on songbirds caught in nets.

The white-tailed deer are mobile as well as noble: they can traverse a frozen river, use a weir, or simply swim. They cross M-14 using the same bridges we do. They'll race through multiple lanes of high-speed traffic, including juggernaut trucks. When they don't make it, there are crashes—horrendous encounters that leave bloodcurdling smears of guts and fur across the road, foretold by the swerving black of braking tires, and climaxed by a recognizable body part such as a cloven-hoofed foreleg.

The county had 1,174 car deer collisions in 2010; a crash last year on I-94 cost the owners of this SUV $6,200. Ann Arbor's fifty-four crashes included four that caused personal injuries.

Michigan had 55,867 reported motor vehicle–deer crashes in 2010, in which 1,433 people were injured and eleven killed. Such crashes occur most often in the most heavily populated counties, Kent (1,976) and Oakland

MICHAEL SOLA

Two deer sun themselves at Forest Hill Cemetery in December. A herd of six to ten live in the U-M Arboretum.

(1,836). Washtenaw County had 1,174 car-deer crashes, and the city of Ann Arbor was the scene of fifty-four, including four that caused personal injuries. Scott Purr, whose Critter Control franchise contracts with the city to haul away road-killed animals, says he finds them frequently along Huron Parkway where it crosses the river.

Ken Wisniewski at Ross-Beakes Collision Services has a terrifying story about a car he had repaired a decade ago. The new Acura hit a big buck with a full rack. The buck catapulted onto the top of the car antlers first, piercing the roof on the passenger side. Luckily, the passenger had moved to the back seat for a nap. Wisniewski says the repairs cost $10,000.

Collisions aren't the only way that deer can imperil humans. There is scary potential for deer-borne disease to migrate to domestic animals and even to people. Lyme disease—named for the Connecticut town where it was first observed in 1975—is now classified as an "emerging disease" in Michigan. It is spread by deer ticks, and left untreated it can cause crippling heart and neurological damage. Naturalist Randy Baker told me that a man in Macomb County is on a ventilator with the disease and that there is a similar case on the other side of the state.

So far, the hundred or so annual cases of Lyme disease in Michigan are mostly in the Upper Peninsula and the west side of the Lower Peninsula. Were the disease to become prevalent in our local deer population, landscape architect Chris Graham predicts, a simple walk in the woods would be dangerous.

Other deer-borne diseases the DNR identifies as of concern because they can be transmitted to domestic animals and humans include epizootic hemorrhagic disease, eastern equine encephalitis, bovine tuberculosis (found in Michigan since 1975), and chronic wasting disease (CWD, found in Kent County in 2008). The DNR says that once CWD is established, it can build to high prevalence—and containment, let alone eradication, is not likely. CWD is closely related to Creutzfeldt-Jakob (mad cow) disease, which infected hundreds of thousands of cattle in Britain in the 1980s and has since killed several hundred people who ate meat from infected animals.

Baiting—leaving piles of corn, carrots, or apples near a hunting blind to draw deer—is known, Baker said, to speed the spread of CWD. The bait brings together more deer than normal, and they breathe, sneeze, and drool on the food. But hunters press the DNR to allow baiting, and the agency permitted it during last fall's hunting season.

Baker also reveals another way disease could spread quickly through the state herd. Photographic evidence proves, he says, that deer eat the guts of harvested deer, left by hunters on the forest floor.

Chris Graham, the landscape architect, says the deer are great for his business: he's asked to replant ravaged landscapes with deer-resistant varieties, to install fences and netting, and to return to repeat it all in a few years. Bud Graham, who also chairs the city's environmental commission, recognizes the downside of overpopulation; his Ann Arbor Hills neighborhood is overrun with them, and he sees those problems only getting worse.

> The DNR calls Washtenaw County a "deer magnet." They're attracted by our subdivisions, farm fields, and super-nourishing, nursery-raised plants.

He doesn't think Washtenaw County is anywhere near its biological carrying capacity for deer. That is, our deer are not even close to running out of food, because county residents, he says, continue to improve the deer habitat by creating forest edges as we carve out subdivisions, plant more crops, and provide super-nourishing nursery-raised plants.

Graham told me that in addition to biological carrying capacity, wildlife managers consider the social carrying capacity for a particular animal: how much aggravation will people put up with? He gave Barton Hills, where fed-up residents hired sharpshooters, as an example of exceeding the social carrying capacity.

But as Barton Hills and other communities found, shooting an urban deer herd is controversial, impractical, and ineffective. So given the known and potential harm of too many deer, what might be done? Hunting is the primary means through which the DNR attempts to regulate the size of the herd. But neither the DNR nor Randy Baker believe that hunting can bring the number down much below the present overpopulation. This is because hunting licenses are the only element the agency can control. Other factors affecting the deer harvest include weather (deer hunker down in wind, and absent snow they are harder to track), the economy, where hunters choose to hunt, and how serious they are about getting a deer. And the number of hunters in Michigan is falling, from 800,000 in 1998 to 683,000 in 2007. In the same period, the number of deer harvested fell from 580,000 to 484,000.

The DNR has researched contraception and concluded that dosing animals individually is too expensive, while less-targeted tactics, like lacing salt licks with birth control drugs, are too dangerous to other animals. Fences and netting work, but they are expensive and not practical on a large scale. Dogs help in small areas, but both fences and dogs just drive the deer elsewhere. Farmers with sufficiently damaged crops can get a permit to shoot the offending deer, but this is not large enough in scale. Reintroducing the natural predators—wolves, mountain lions, and bears—would be impossible. Anyway, chuckles Baker, "wolves are too smart to live with so many humans."

Baker suggests a "politically impossible" solution: reinstate commercial hunting, which has been illegal in Michigan for well over a century. "Commercial hunting," he says, would allow licensed individuals to sell the deer they harvest, a complex undertaking given existing state and federal laws. It would require licensing, inspection, reporting, and taxing mechanisms. Sport hunters would object strenuously, Baker predicts, as would animal rights advocates and perhaps even the existing purveyors of other kinds of meat. And imagine the public health disaster were chronic wasting disease to cross over to humans.

Even if the DNR could balance the competing interests of hunters, farmers, gardeners, forest managers, and animal lovers well enough to set a goal for the deer population of Washtenaw County, there seems little hope that they could achieve it. Perhaps only a paradigm-shifting event like a serious outbreak of disease can create pressure to find a way to reduce the deer population. Meanwhile, home gardener, there is always a dog, a fence, stinky spray, or perhaps your own bear. ■

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Ugly Mug

Coffee like wine

JOHN COPLEY

Imagine a non-Tim Hortons, anti-Bob Evans, un-Dunkin' Donuts sort of dark coffee cave, and you'll be on the right track toward Ypsilanti's Ugly Mug Café and Roastery. Dozens of little spotlights and lamps with funky shades mellow the cement-floored interior of the odd little building that used to be a bus terminal. Long shelves of books (comic and other) and a brushed-metal checkout counter stand out in the eclectic decor. A gleaming giant espresso machine shines like an altar up front—and let's not even get started on sacrilegious statuary groupings sprinkled throughout the place.

Holding forth (froth?) since 2004 on Cross Street near Eastern Michigan's campus, Ugly Mug is a one-off enterprise rich in *terroir,* the flavor of its time and place. My husband challenged me to write this review without using the word "hipster," and I'm caving in the second paragraph—but not without qualification. Several visits and frightening amounts of caffeine consumption leave me pondering the best and worst of youth culture and counterculture, authenticity and pretension, brand and anti-brand.

Ugly Mug roasts its own beans in small batches sourced from exotic-sounding regions. You can order your drink from the three or so roasts of the day pretty much any way you want, from single-origin drip or high-octane press styles to espresso to super-creamy cappuccino or latte creations courtesy of Calder's Dairy. Whole milk is the default choice, and while your barista will substitute skim if you wish, the intensity of the coffee here seems to call for the richer variety. While whole milk morphs to almost sinful caramel flavors, skim brings out some bitterness, IMHO. You may have a different experience: literally, not figuratively, because there's no single corporate formula at Ugly Mug in how the beans are mixed, roasted, packaged, or prepared. There's not much corporate anything—I saw at least five different renditions of the logo on signs and labels, and that's just the ones that weren't handwritten.

For people so serious about coffee, Mugsters I talked to had a generosity of spirit. Sidle up if you can to Miro (first-name currency preferred here), the intense but friendly chief roaster who hovers around his gear in the back of the shop, and he'll probably welcome an exchange on the fruit tones and aggression level you perceive in his latest batch of Brazilian Serra Negra, or the brightness and aroma of the organic Mexican Altura. At the Mug, people talk about coffee as others elsewhere do about wine. The café culture extends to hosting readings, performances, and art shows—and tasting seminars complete with fearsome checklist grids.

Oh yeah, there's some food: bagel sandwiches mostly. Many are described as "killer," but that must be ironic, since they're all relatively mundane. The patty-shaped cooked egg wasn't very appealing in the breakfast bagel, but otherwise ingredients were fresh, as were the Bagel Time bagels themselves.

The sandwiches seem to serve primarily as fuel to keep folks going. Pastries, on the other hand, are eye-catchingly displayed up front—and tempting. Most are baked locally (exceptions being croissants and muffins from Sam's Club, if you can believe it). I like that a buck will get you a cute mini-scone from Just Delicious out of suburban Detroit (big scones always bore me before they're done). I *really* liked the chocolate chunk cookie baked by a small enterprise in Ann Arbor called Tasty Footprints. It boasted all-natural ingredients and just the right occasional hit of salt to help the chocolate pop. Perhaps that's why it worked so well paired with the Mug's Mexican Latte, which likewise boasted little full-flavor kernels of nutmeg and chocolate.

Vegan and gluten-free treats are available, as are juices and local cider in the cooler. Tea drinkers will find options, and there's decaf espresso. When I ordered a decaf cap late one afternoon, the barista topped it with an intricately executed, mahogany-ivory tulip design in foamed milk. No shortcuts or disapproval when the order's a decaf; it looked and tasted heavenly. They may be award-winning baristas and artisan roasters at Ugly Mug, but in my experience they were not disparaging of lesser coffee geekdom, nor of the homeless-looking man who came in before me one day.

If you prefer to try the coffee with no trek over Washtenaw's miracle-mile wasteland, Ugly Mug's beans are sold in select Ann Arbor locations, like the People's Food Coop, and they're the only option available for espresso drinks at Babo, which opened in December at Washington and Division (see Marketplace Changes, p. 41). The beans seem to travel well: I brought home a bag, and they brewed up with flavor and richness that made me want to toss the stuff from my pantry.

You'll have to make a pilgrimage to the source, though, to see the beans being roasted, smell the divine aroma, and experience firsthand the Ugly Mug's singular focus. Otherwise, you'll miss out on what many not-so-average-Joe lovers consider ground zero locally for coffee connoisseurship. And you won't get to read walls full of some of the wildest stickers amassable in a mere seven years. "Eat More Kale" and "Keep Ypsi Weird" are two that can be reprinted in an all-ages publication. Make the trek for the rest of the story.

—M.B. Lewis

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JOHN COPLEY

always ordered real food: a pita sandwich or a combo plate trisected into colorful fields of fresh-tasting tabouleh generous on the parsley (green), creamy hummus (beige), and a wild card third choice of meat or spinach pie, or perhaps a tempting vegetable stew (rainbow). When I learned the place had recently celebrated its twentieth year of business, I decided it was time to revisit.

Bottom line, except for the view of a new Panera out the big front window: the homey eatery has barely changed. There are still a few big tables, covered with plastic cloths, crowded into the unassuming storefront. There's still a checkout counter in front dwarfed by a long and tall glass display case packed full of main dishes labeled with handwritten cards. Parking is plentiful, and there's no alcohol served.

Friendly owners Jinan and Monib El Khatib are still in the kitchen and behind the counter, respectively. I'd noticed that "Syrian Cuisine" now figures more prominently in the signage, but when I asked how the El Khatibs felt about the unrest back home, their smiles dropped away. Monib shook his head, said "Very bad," and walked off. Conversations about the food went better and lasted longer.

You won't go wrong ordering the hearty cheese or beef pies, which are warmed on the grill to bring out soft flakiness in the fresh doughy crust—one advantage of having a bakery in the back room. Chicken shawarma sends up a garlic alert, but it works well wrapped into a pita sandwich with tomatoes, lettuce, and pickles. Sampling two types of poultry *kafta* (ground meat rolls) revealed surprising differences. The turmeric-yellow chicken kafta was a little dry and spicy hot, whereas the darker brown turkey kafta's dominant flavor was mild mint.

On the vegetarian side, Syrian potato salad combines cumin, parsley, and lemon juice for a flavorful dressing that works cold or hot. Mild beet and onion salad tasted OK, and I shouldn't have been disappointed that the beets had came-from-a-can blandness since their telltale thin-sliced shape telegraphed their source. I've just been spoiled by the fresh beets on the salad bars at Whole Foods and Plum Market over the past years. The what-you-see-is-what-you-get glass case approach is generally a wonderful thing. I might never have been able to talk one timid companion into trying baked eggplant *makmoor* if he wasn't able to first observe the large amounts of onion and tomato in the stew. He loved it, saying it almost could have been called ratatouille.

Again, with several shelves of desserts on display, getting to peer through the glass case before ordering is a blessing—and a bit of torture, since you'll surely want several (go ahead, they're small and not too pricey). I recommend the thin and crispy honeyed sesame cookie (almost a florentine), the fluffy but rich mocha and peanut butter brownies, and dark-chocolate-drenched whipped cream éclairs—I didn't miss the usual custard filling at all. A couple of baklava-like pastries could have been fresher—especially a chocolate iced variety that stuck to its paper doily—and some of the traditional Syrian cookies are made with rose or lemon flower waters, intense flavors that might seem soapy to Western palates.

After a few satisfying meals in the warm kitchen of Exotic Bakeries, topped off with hot anise or cardamom tea, I started wondering why I hadn't been back in so long. I'm not sure of the answer: different personal traffic patterns, perhaps, or more Middle Eastern choices now than there were a decade ago. With memory and tastes refreshed, I don't think I'll forget about it again.

—M.B.L.

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Zingerman's Candy Manufactory

Zzang!® candy bar special has area candy freaks abuzz

Industry insiders are predicting a new trend towards handmade small-batch, old-fashioned candy after people get their first taste of Zzang! bars during Zingerman's January special. "A lot of folks haven't had a traditional candy bar like this, though they might have heard their grandparents talk about them," said candymaker Charlie Frank as he stirred a pot of caramel for the Zzang! Original, a bar made with Jumbo Runner peanuts, nougat, sea salt, and dark chocolate.

Unlike a lot of commercial candy, Zingerman's Candy Manufactory uses only the very best ingredients they can find. "Zzang! bars are to commercial candy what estate bottled extra virgin olive oil from Tuscany is to industrially produced olive oil," notes Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzweig. *Times* readers can taste the difference for themselves at Zingerman's Delicatessen, Bakehouse, Coffee Company and Roadhouse. Order online at www.zingermans.com.

Buy 2, Get 1 FREE

"Chewy, crunchy, sweet, salty, and highly addictive — this luscious handmade candy bar puts the vending machine stuff to shame." – O magazine

try all four bars!

Zzang! Original
Layers of caramel, peanut butter nougat and butter-roasted Virginia peanuts dressed up in dark chocolate.

Wowza
Raspberry chocolate ganache, raspberry nougat and raspberry chewy candies.

Ca$hew Cow
Freshly roasted cashews and cashew brittle with milk chocolate gianduja enrobed in dark chocolate.

What the Fudge?
Layers of fudge, caramel and malted milk cream fondant. The sweet-lovers dream.

Hungarian invasion results in explosion of "new" traditional sweets and savories

Times readers are urged to watch for a blitz of Hungarian flavors coming from Zingerman's Bakehouse this winter. Currently, *Times* historians are researching the origins of Rigó Jansci, a new cake taking over local taste buds. According to their research, this Hungarian coffeehouse torte is named after Rigó Jancsi (1858–1927), a famous Hungarian violinist. This staff favorite consists of two light layers of chocolate sponge cake filled with chocolate rum whipped cream and iced with apricot glaze and dark chocolate ganache.

Visit www.zingermansbakehouse.com for updates!

Creamery Names Cheese of the Month

Bridgewater Honored with Special Price at Deli and Creamery through January.

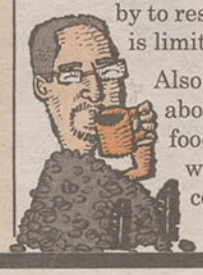
This rich mold-ripened cheese, studded with freshly-ground, Telicherry black pepper is the Cheese of Honor for a limited time. Try it! The Bridgewater combines a slight citrus flavor with the bold spice of fresh pepper, finishing with gentle hints of mushroom.

$9.99 each
$11.99 reg.

Coffee Lovers Get Schooled!

January 22 • 1:30-3:30pm • Cost: $10

Java drinkers are studying different brewing methods that to use at home, such as the Chemex, press pot, vacuum pot and more with experts from Zingerman's Coffee Company. Call, email or just stop by to reserve a seat – space is limited.



Also, get information about a new coffee and food pairings class at www.zingermans-coffee.com!

Experts Advise: Call Zingerman's and Start Planning Now for Stress-Free Summer Wedding

Personalized Cakes, Experienced Event Planners, Full-flavored Feasts and Supreme Service Lead to Marital Bliss

Marriage experts note that the wedding cakes page at **www.zingermans-bakehouse.com** is one of the first stops for many couples down the road that leads to "happily ever after." Or, at least, these ahh-inspiring photos have started more than a few down the path to a cake that tastes as good as it looks. Happy couples are calling 734.761.7255 to set up a private meeting with the Bakehouse cake designers on Plaza Drive.

Many couples also turn to **Zingerman's Catering and Events** to find the perfect wedding location, arrange all the rentals, entertainment, flowers and decor, and to design a tempting, flavorful menu guaranteed to wow guests. For more info, call 734.663.3400.

2012 pot pie season at Zingerman's DELICATESSEN

We're making handmade pot pies to cheer up your winter blues.

classic chicken pot pie

Free range chicken hand picked off the bone then blended with big chunks of carrots, celery, potatoes, onions and herbs. Wrapped in a handmade butter crust. It's the perfect lazy cook winter meal; it's warm, filling and easier than pie.

john h. turkey turkey pot pie

Harnois & Son farm turkey with big chunks of celery, carrots, onions, potatoes and spiced with Turkish Urfa pepper and fresh herbs. Then wrapped in a handmade butter crust.

fungi pot pie (vegetarian selection!)

Fun pie for fungiphiles! Michigan Maitake Mushrooms, Tantré Farm Organic Blue Oyster Mushrooms and a little Balinese Long Pepper, tucked in an all-butter crust.

darina's dingle pie

This pie is made with lamb from Hannewald Lamb Co., loads of potatoes, onions and a dash of cumin and rosemary. Wrapped miner-style (no tin) in a butter crust.

the red brick beef pot pie

This beef pie is our heartiest one yet. Packed with big chunks of all natural beef from Ernst Farm here in Washtenaw Co., carrots, potatoes, fresh herbs and wrapped in our handmade crust.

cheshire pork pie

Delicious free range Berkshire pork shoulder braised with onions, potatoes, apple cider and spices then stuffed in a handmade pastry crust with organic Gold Rush apples from Almar Orchards in Fushing, MI. Wrapped miner style (no tin).

$9.99/each
(serves one)

Stock up and save! Pot pies are only available in January & February.
Buy 10, take **10% OFF!** Buy 20, **get 20% OFF!!** Buy 30, **get 30% OFF!!!**

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Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

Sava's Babo

Taking student food up a notch

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Sava Lelcaj (center) with general manager Paul Hannah and cheese buyer Claire Spafford at Babo, her new market in Sterling 411 Lofts.

Albanian immigrant Sava Lelcaj was just twenty-three when she started her eponymous sandwich shop in 2007. Despite what she later saw as extortionate rent, she survived. Still, a lot of business watchers thought it was a fluke.

When she moved across the street a few years later into the former Zanzibar space—more than twice as big, with a liquor license—the skeptics came out in force. Zanzibar's experienced trio of owners, who also own the popular Red Hawk down the street, admitted they had never quite been able to make the location work. Many thought the young Albanian was out of her depth.

Sava's menu isn't cutting-edge, but it's perky and inviting, and she's kept prices at the upper end of student range. She quickly drew a younger, livelier set than Zanzibar, and, as a bonus, mob-level crowds before any UMS performance. Who would have guessed that what those well-heeled, blue-haired classical music lovers wanted most before the symphony was an affordable meal and a stiff drink?

In December Lelcaj opened her newest venture, a grocery and deli named **Babo** (Albanian for "papa," she explains—hers died last June). She's well aware that once again, skeptics are murmuring: the students upstairs in Sterling 411 Lofts won't buy high-end groceries; there's no parking. Her answer to that is a brilliant, self-assured smile. She says her younger brother, Fred, who served as contractor on the project, is already scouting locations for a second Babo.

When she signed the lease for the ground-floor space in the high-rise, she thought Dean & DeLuca, the posh New York gourmet market, would be her model. But Lelcaj learns fast; she quickly caught the word on the street, which is "local." "We're trying to stay as local as possible—local cheese makers and winemakers," she says. "And we're trying to be a little more inclusive" than other high-end purveyors—which is diplomatic retail-speak for "cheaper."

Babo's opening ad campaign is built around a photomontage of a glammed-up Sava holding a chicken, against a backdrop of cornstalks and a junkyard. Detroit salvage and an old barn in Chelsea provided much of the store's furniture, shelving, and other decorative accents—check out the rustic but clean-lined chairs at the counter fashioned from leftover barn wood.

Managing Babo will be Paul Hannah, who was wine director at Vinology and has worked at Zingerman's. Wine will be important at Babo, but not quite yet. A Class C liquor license, allowing on-site consumption, is still in transit—Hannah is hoping he'll be able to serve wine by January but doesn't guarantee it.

All the other facets of the store are in place, including a full kitchen making hot and cold prepared foods and a coffee bar selling Babo's own microlots of Guatemalan coffee roasted at Ypsi's Ugly Mug (see Restaurants, p. 37). There's cheese, charcuterie, produce, fresh bread, spices, and even a meat counter.

Contrary to the skeptics, Hannah believes students—particularly the older students and medical residents upstairs—will take to premium groceries if properly exposed: "There are a lot of young people in town who haven't really made food and wine a part of their lives yet." He welcomes small purchases. "If someone wants just a sliver of Asiago or cheddar, we can give them what they need. If someone wants three slices of bacon for breakfast, we can give it to them."

Babo, 403 E. Washington, 997–8495. Daily 7 a.m.–10 p.m. baboannarbor.com

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Blake Reetz and Helen Harding once ran the Jefferson Market's catering operation. Now they've got their own place on Packard.

Eat's Progress

From catering to cart to carryout

Helen Harding and Blake Reetz opened **Eat Catering and Carryout** in the former Marcano's space on Packard in mid-November. Harding, twenty-six, and Reetz, thirty, met as teenagers working at the Jefferson Market on Jefferson. Harding continued to work there part time while she earned a degree in American Culture at the U-M, and Reetz stayed full time until it closed in 2007.

Pastry chef Mary Rasmussen revived what's now the Jefferson Market & Cakery the following year, but by then, Harding had moved on to Zingerman's, and Reetz, originally from West Branch, Michigan, had moved to Asheville, North Carolina. "I was just looking for a change of pace," he says. He stayed a year and a half, working in restaurants and studying cookbooks, before moving back to Ann Arbor in 2008 because he missed his friends, not the least of whom was Harding. He says he also remembered a dream they'd shared: to open a catering business together. "So I moved

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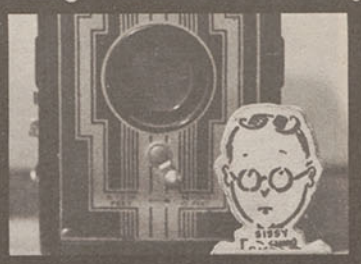

Thanks for a successful 2011!

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Collaborators

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Directed by **Nicholas Hytner**

Sunday \ January 8 \ 4 pm

Michigan Theater

This new play by John Hodge (screenwriter of *Trainspotting, Shallow Grave,* and *The Beach*) centers on an imaginary encounter between Joseph Stalin and the playwright Mikhail Bulgakov (best known for his novel *The Master and Margarita*). Stars Alex Jennings (*The Habit of Art*) as Bulgakov and Simon Russell Beale (*London* Assurance) as Stalin.

Einstein on the Beach

An Opera in Four Acts by

Robert Wilson – Philip Glass

Choreography by **Lucinda Childs**

Friday \ January 20 \ 7 pm

Saturday \ January 21 \ 7 pm

Sunday \ January 22 \ 2 pm

Power Center

Widely credited as one of the greatest artistic achievements of the 20th century, this rarely performed and revolutionary work launched director Robert Wilson and composer Philip Glass to international success when it was first produced in Avignon, France in 1976.

Einstein on the Beach breaks all of the rules of conventional opera. Instead of a traditional orchestral arrangement, Glass composed for the synthesizers, woodwinds, and voices of the Philip Glass Ensemble. Non-narrative in form, the work uses a series of powerful recurrent images as its main dramatic device, shown in juxtaposition with abstract dance sequences created by American choreographer Lucinda Childs. *The New York Times* critic John Rockwell said, "Einstein was like nothing I had ever encountered...Its very elusiveness radiated richly, like some dark star whose effects we can only feel...*Einstein on the Beach*, perhaps like Einstein himself, transcended time. It's not (just) an artifact of its era, it's timeless...an experience to cherish for a lifetime."

This event is part of **Pure Michigan Renegade.**

Founding Sponsor: **The Power Foundation**

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Funded in part by **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation,** the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation,** and the **National Endowment for the Arts.** Art Works.

Media Partners **Michigan Radio 91.7 FM, Between the Lines, WDET 101.9 FM, Ann Arbor's 107one,**and **Detroit Jewish News.**

Denis Matsuev piano

Monday \ January 23 \ 7:30 pm

Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM

Schubert	Sonata in a minor, Op. 14, D. 784 (1823)
Beethoven	Sonata in f minor, Op. 57 ("Appassionata") (1804)
Grieg	Sonata in e minor, Op. 7 (1865)
Stravinsky	Three Movements from *Petrushka* (1921)

Sponsored by the **Catherine S. Arcure and Herbert E. Sloan Endowment Fund.**

Media Partner **WGTE 91.3 FM.**

Les Violons Du Roy

Bernard Labadie conductor

Maurice Steger recorder

Saturday \ January 28 \ 8 pm

Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM

Handel	Concerto Grosso in B-flat Major, Op. 6, No. 7 ("Hornpipe") HWV 325 (1739)
Telemann	Suite in a minor for Alto Recorder, Strings, and Basso Continuo, (b. 1681)
Sammartini	Concerto in F Major for Soprano Recorder and Strings (b. 1700)
Geminiani	Concerto Grosso No. 12 in d minor, "La Folia" (after Corelli) (1726-29)
Geminiani	Concerto in F Major for Flute, No. 10 (b. 1687)

Sponsored by **Jerry and Gloria Abrams.**

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **WRCJ 90.9 FM.**

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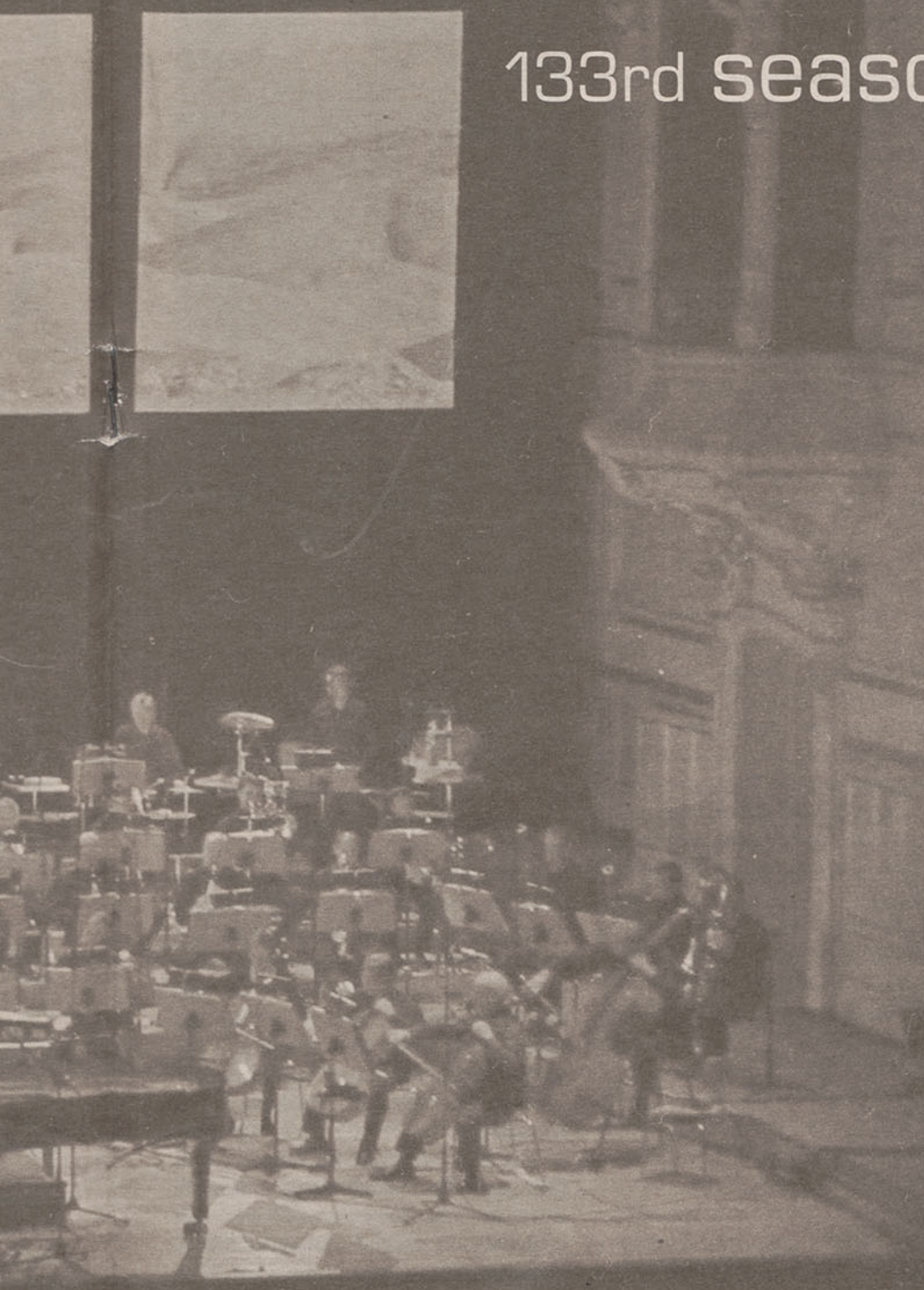

Explore. Interact. Create.

UMS Night School: Explore Pure Michigan Renegade
Monday \ January 9 \ 7 pm
Hosted by Prof. Mark Clague, U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Ann Arbor District Library Multipurpose Room (343 S. Fifth Avenue)

When UMS learned that Professor Mark Clague was teaching a college-level course this winter about the UMS performances featured in Pure Michigan® Renegade, we immediately began thinking about how we might offer a similar experience for the community. Together we came up with UMS Night School: 90-minute "classes" which include a 30-minute discussion of each performance on the series, plus a 60-minute intro session for the next performance on the series. Each session includes a presentation by a genre expert, an interactive exercise to draw you into the themes behind the performance, and a takeaway reading to enjoy on your own. Sessions are designed to engage you with the performances and with other audience members. You can attend them all, or choose the ones that interest you most – no registration necessary!

This session: Intro to *Einstein on the Beach* and Hamburg Symphony/Messiaen

Pure Michigan Renegade on Film
Absolute Wilson (2006, Katharina Otto-Bernstein, 105 min.)
Tuesday \ January 10 \ 7 pm
U-M Museum of Art Stern Auditorium

Absolute Wilson chronicles the epic life, times, and creative genius of theater director Robert Wilson.

Penny W. Stamps Speaker Series: Philip Glass & Robert Wilson
Sunday \ January 15 \ 4 pm
Michigan Theater

*Presented by the **U-M School of Art & Design** with support from the **University Musical Society** and **U-M Museum of Art.***

Producers Talk: The Business of *Einstein on the Beach*
Wednesday \ January 18 \ 6 pm
U-M Ross School of Business, Wyly Hall, Room W2740

Producer Linda Brumbach and associate producers Alisa Regas and Kaleb Kilkenny of the New York-based Pomegranate Arts production company give their own behind-the-scenes look at what it took to bring such an extraordinary project to life, and why they chose Ann Arbor as the place it all begins.

*Presented in collaboration with **U-M Arts Enterprise.***

Saturday Morning Physics: Einstein as a Cultural Figure
Saturday \ January 21 \ 10:30 am
Rackham Auditorium

Einstein on the Beach composer Philip Glass joins a panel of special guests to ponder the cultural significance of Einstein. U-M faculty member Fred Adams moderates the discussion.

*Co-presented by the **U-M Department of Physics, Saturday Morning Physics,** with support from **U-M Living Arts and Arts at Michigan.***

Robert Wilson: Video 50
January 7 through April 29
U-M Museum of Art (525 S. State Street)

The tiny dramas that comprise Robert Wilson's *Video 50* consist of a randomly arranged set of 30-second "episodes" that explore the intersection of narrative and still-life.

*This project is made possible in part by **Prue and Ami Rosenthal.***

Messiaen's *From the Canyons to the Stars*
Hamburg Symphony Orchestra
Jeffrey Tate conductor
Francesco Tristano piano
Daniel Landau filmmaker
Sunday \ January 29 \ 4 pm
Hill Auditorium

In 1971, French composer Olivier Messiaen was commissioned by Alice Tully to write a piece commemorating America's bicentennial. Messiaen was inspired and fascinated by the natural wonder he found in the landscapes of the American West. *Des canyons aux étoiles* (From the Canyons to the Stars) represents his sonic impressions of America's last untouched frontier. Conductor Jeffrey Tate and the Hamburg Symphony, in collaboration with Israeli filmmaker Daniel Landau, bring the piece alive in a new cinematic installation, where images of man's impact on the environment create a counterpoint to sounds of untouched nature. Through film images projected on multiple screens, Hill Auditorium will be turned into a multi-sensory experience celebrating the beauty of the earth and our unaltered landscapes.

This event is part of **Pure Michigan Renegade.**

Funded in part by an award from the **National Endowment for the Arts.** Art Works.

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **WDET 101.9 FM.**

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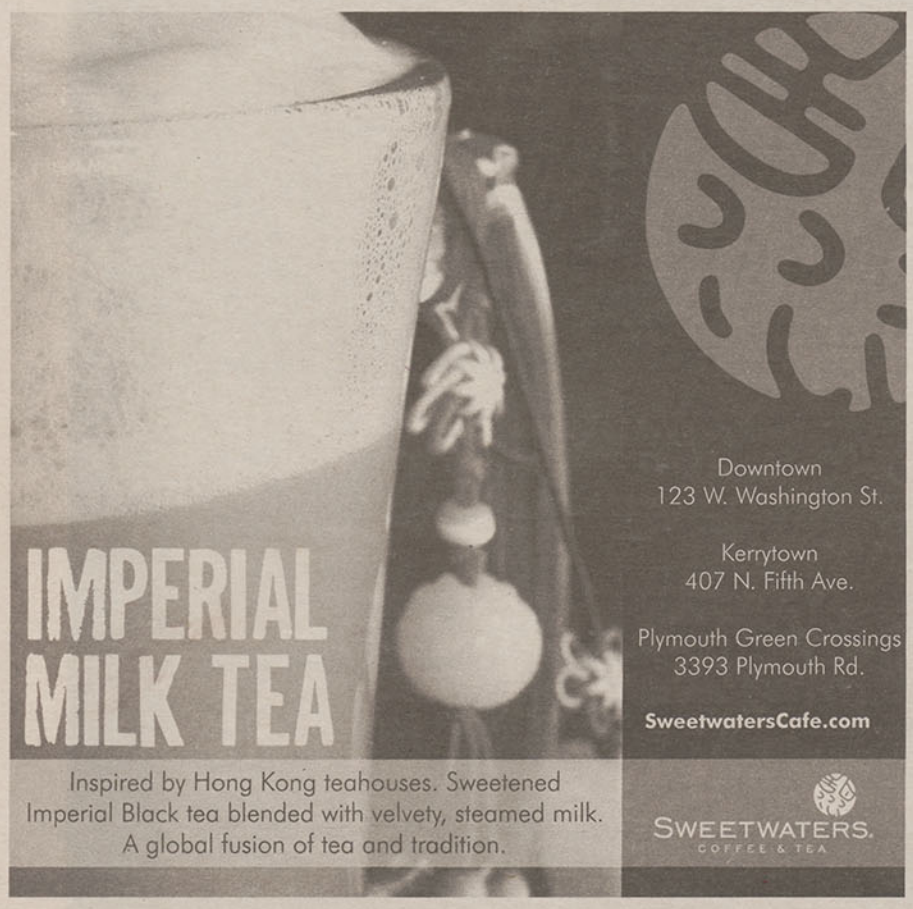

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Marketplace Changes

back, contacted her, and said, 'Let's do it.'"

They started out renting a commercial kitchen near the Ann Arbor Airport from Stacy Williams, who used it for her home delivery meal service, What's Cooking, from Sunday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon. "We were able to cater out of there from Wednesday evenings through Sunday mornings," Harding says—ideal timing, since "ninety percent of catering happens on weekends." In September 2010, they started cooking retail out of a cart at the Farmers Market; last spring, they moved over to Mark's Carts.

By then, "we were outgrowing our What's Cooking situation," Harding says—when Williams needed her kitchen, they had to shift their operation to Mark Hodesh's commercial kitchen on Liberty. So in August they started looking for a place of their own, and when they found the Marcano's space, they jumped at it.

Most business is carryout, but there's a four-top table and three stools at the counter. Menus include dinners like braised beef brisket and coq au vin (both $16), as well as sandwiches like the "green B.L.T," made of house-cured green (unsmoked) bacon, pickled green tomato, lettuce, and house-made mayonnaise on grilled farm bread ($7.25).

"All summer long we were running back and forth between our two kitchens, and we were literally spread out all over town," Harding says. "It's really nice to be in one place where we have all our stuff and not be really spread thin."

Eat Catering and Carryout, 1906 Packard, 213–7011. Tues–Sat. 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon. eatannarbor.com

From Leather to Skin Care

Lily Grace takes Suwanee Springs' spot.

Lily Grace is the name of Cyndi Clark's granddaughter. Like all babies, she has beautiful skin and makes a good mascot for a skin care store—a framed six-by-nine-inch photo of the luminous-skinned toddler is parked behind the counter.

Not only is the store named for Lily Grace, the baby is also the reason Clark opened her own business. After years of commuting around the country as a vice president then as a consultant for a series of skin care and cosmetics companies, Clark says, "I want to have the Sunday dinner [with my granddaughter] and go to piano recitals, no matter how bad they are." She signed a five-year lease in the Main Street space that was formerly Suwanee Springs and is on a mission to make Ann Arbor pay attention to its skin. Takeaway message: SPF. Now.

"I love makeup," says Clark, surely one of Ann Arbor's less-heard utterances, especially from a vegetarian, which Clark and her husband, Dave, are. Ann Arbor, she gently agrees, is not really big on cosmetics and skin care.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Cyndi Clark's granddaughter is both the namesake and the occasion for her new cosmetics store, Lily Grace.

Clark is. Twenty-two years ago, she says, she got a job at a Macy's Clinique counter and "caught the bug. From Macy's we moved to Paris for two years," courtesy of her husband's job as an executive at Amcor, a high-tech packaging company. There she learned that Parisians take skin and body care more seriously than Americans do. "It's very important. That's how you feel pretty: by feeling healthy and feeling good every day," says Clark. After Paris came her favorite job, at Jacobson's, supervising all the stores' cosmetics departments.

The skin care world has its own celebrities, and Clark knows many of them. In early December her store was dotted with congratulatory bouquets from old friends in the business, and makeup artist Trish McEvoy was about to fly in for a workshop to do makeovers.

With all her connections, Clark had a hard time choosing her brands. She wanted to offer a range from scientifically formulated "spa lines like Natura Bissé all the way to pure natural brands like Tata Harper, who hand-mixes her own cosmetics on her farm." She also wanted to bring smaller, artisanal brands to Ann Arbor, like Tammy Fender (another earthy-crunchy brand: "aromatherapy, crystal therapy, and color therapy, synergized with natural ingredients"). She carries specialty products for men, like Billy Jealousy. And to round things out, she has stocked a small section of home products, like soaps, scented candles, and room diffusers. Nest-brand votive candles, in flavors like bamboo or bourbon, sell for $16.

Lily Grace, 306 S. Main, 761–9350. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Briefly noted

A single shadeless red light bulb illuminates the front porch. There is no business

sign. The street-level windows are dark, unless there's a movie being screened inside. But if you look up at the second story, you'll see dim light shining through the windows.

Welcome to the **Bar at 327 Braun Court.** If you didn't know it was there, you wouldn't know it was there. Eric Farrell and Ted Kennedy opened the combined bar and performance space in late November, but did it with so little fanfare that even people who live and work in the neighborhood missed it. Upstairs, it's a swanky cocktail bar; downstairs is a screening room for experimental films and an occasional live musical performance.

Kennedy, thirty-one, makes experimental films as a hobby. He says that holding screenings in his Kerrytown-area home proved difficult, so after one too many noise complaints from neighbors, he rented the former Fuji restaurant in Braun Court.

He knew he wanted to screen films there, but he also knew that to pay the rent he'd need to marry it with a viable business. A friend helped him run the numbers and come up with a budget, and when another friend introduced him to Farrell, Kennedy knew he'd found the partner he'd been looking for.

Farrell, thirty-seven, works at the bar full time while Kennedy works for his family's business and lends a hand when needed. "We're big believers in owner-run and -operated businesses," Farrell says. Though he's never bartended professionally before, he adds, "I've been a home cocktail maker for years." Cocktails, all $9, include the Corpse Reviver #2, made with Plymouth gin, Cointreau, lillet, lemon juice, and Pernod; and the Scofflaw, made with Wild Turkey rye, dry vermouth, lemon juice, grenadine, and Reagan's Orange Bitters. Both were invented, ironically, during Prohibition. The bar also sells beer, wine, and snacks like chips and salsa, a meat and cheese plate, sardines, and hard-cooked eggs.

The partners decorated the place themselves with the help of some friends, giving it the feel of an up-north backwoods bar, the kind that Yoopers frequent and Fudgies don't know exists. A stuffed deer's head adorns one wall, and a taxidermist's mold for a deer head adorns another. The deer, Farrell says, is named Terrance; the mold, he adds, is just creepy, but fascinating to look at.

But back to the sign, or the lack of one. Kennedy and Farrell repaired the Braun Court sign on the side of their building and consider it to be their business sign, even though theirs is just one of seven buildings on the court. "If the bar's open," Farrell explains, "we turn on the sign." He likes the fact that at first glance it's not apparent what their business is, or even that it's there at all.

Kennedy says the title under which they screen movies and present live performances is Study and Observation. So when they advertise an event, all they have to say is that it's "Study and Observation at the Bar at 327 Braun Court." Which gives people all the info they really need. As opposed to, he says, "Study and Observation at 327 Braun Court at Ted and Eric's Bar." He laughs and adds that as cool as he thinks the name, or lack of one, is, "I will confess I always liked the name Braunsies."

The Bar at 327 Braun Court, 327 Braun Court across from Kerrytown, 929–5811. Tues.–Sat. 7 p.m.–2 a.m.

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Ali Hijazi opened his third **Zamaan Café** in the Colonnade in October, but he had to close his first location on Packard to do it. It was a question of manpower. "There's just too many things going on to do it all myself," he says. The first location opened in early 2010 as the Zamaan Café and Bakery, followed by a second Zamaan Café (minus the bakery) in the Plymouth Green Shopping Center in June.

Both the Plymouth Green restaurant and the new one serve the same menu of traditional Lebanese food, with one big difference—starting in mid-December the new place was planning to add breakfast dishes both American and Lebanese. Hijazi mentions *foul,* made with fava beans and hummus, as an example of the latter. Labne, a combination of yogurt and vegetables, is another—"it's good with tea," he says. They'll have omelets, too, served open-faced with the egg on the bottom and the ingredients heaped on top.

Hijazi will also serve his own fresh-baked pita bread because when he sublet the former Café Zamaan and Bakery to Tmaz Taqueria, he retained access to the ovens. The loaves will be pretty flat, even for pita bread, because he refuses to serve anything close to the kind of thick, fluffy bread you see piled high in baskets in many restaurants. "You get filled with dough, and that's not what I want to do," he says. "I want people to taste the food, not just come in and eat hot bread."

Zamaan Café, 865 W. Eisenhower in the Colonnade Shopping Center, 769–1113. Mon.–Thurs. 10:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri.–Sat. 10:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

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Sandy Cadotte-Keys, owner of **Dragon's Lair Futons and Organic Mattresses,** claims it is the oldest extant futon store in the country. If she seems to have dropped off the map for a few years, that's not her fault. When she closed her store on West Liberty in 2009 (it's now Tienda la Libertad), she continued to sell futons out of her nearby warehouse, but the city wouldn't allow her to prop up a sandwich board on Liberty (see Up Front, p. 9). She'll be more visible now that she has a real retail shop again in Scio Township's **Furniture Center,** a collection of home-related businesses at the former House of Sofas on Jackson Road.

The Zen minimalism of the futon has always attracted a certain organic and nature-loving clientele, so Cadotte-Keys decided to make natural rubber the organizing principle at Dragon's Lair. She now specializes in both futons and conventional mattresses made of latex. "It's a natural product, from Sri Lanka or Indonesia. Latex is natural rubber. The top layers of the mattress are coated with wool, so they don't need fire retardant."

Cadotte-Keys is untroubled that there's another mattress vendor under the same roof: Sanjay Panjwani's All About Furniture right next to her. The furniture people in town, she claims, operate more like a confederation. "We know each other. We get together and buy in bulk so we can get better shipping deals. We help each other out with merchandise. Doreen Collins and I traded things all the time, and she used to sew covers for me."

Sadly, Collins, whose Dream On Futons for years stood on the corner of Liberty and Ashley, recently died of cancer. "She was the nicest person," Cadotte-Keys testifies. "I never heard her say anything bad about anyone. I used to try to get her to, and she wouldn't."

Dragon's Lair Futons and Organic Mattresses, 5301 Jackson Rd. (inside the Furniture Center), 665–4646. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m., or by appointment. dragonslairfuton.com

Closings

Chris Klademenos quietly closed the **Flim Flam Family Restaurant & Deli** in the Plymouth Road Mall for the last time on Sunday, November 5, at the end of the regular business day. The next day he met with the landlords. "I just gave them the keys and I left," he says.

Klademenos, who owned the northside institution for twenty-nine years, says he decided to close for a number of reasons. "For one thing, I'm getting old." And since Pfizer closed its 3,200-employee campus across the street, "business was getting on the slow side." (Pfizer is now the U-M's North Campus Research Complex, but employment is still far below former levels.) He says he tried to sell the restaurant but couldn't find any takers.

Klademenos, seventy-two, is enjoying the break from the daily restaurant grind, but says it's hard to imagine retiring completely. "Who knows?" he says. "I might find a little thing to do a few hours a day. We'll see."

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Kappa Koney, tucked into a tiny plaza on the corner of Maple and West Liberty, closed in November. "It was good food," says Jon Hannawa, working behind the counter at Buster's convenience store next door. "I ate there sometimes, but not all the time." Then he stops himself and says: "That was the problem, I guess. Not everyone ate there all the time."

Hannawa—whose aunt is married to Kappa owner Sam Deddeh's brother—reports that both Kappa employees have landed new jobs. "You remember the cook, Ezra? He's working out somewhere near the airport. And the waitress? She was Sam's daughter. She's working near here at … what is it? A pet thing?" "It's like dog day care," a customer at the cash register supplied, though neither of them could remember the name of the business. (It's Breed Above, in the former Fresh Seasons market across the street.) ■

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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at arborweb.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.*

The Ark

316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon.–Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio and the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com), and at the door. **Jan. 6: Black Jake & the Carnies.** Popular Ypsilanti octet that calls its energetic, foot-stomping blend of punk, old-time music, and bluegrass "crabgrass." Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD, *Sundry Mayhems,* which according to *Deep Cutz* writer Jeff Milo features "blurring see-saw strings, a mean washboard, a wheezy accordion, angular, tinny banjos and mandolins and zingy, mercurial (yet melodious) lead vocals girded by poignant, rousing choruses (even some opera mixed in), at 0–60-and-back-again tempos." Opening act is **Andru Bemis,** a West Michigan singer-songwriter who writes deceptively simple songs with an intimate, earthy feel. His repertoire also includes his adaptations of lesser known traditional songs. $15. **Jan. 7: Jill Jack.** Sultry-voiced Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter whose music also draws freely on jazz and country flavors. Her 2005 CD *Moon and the Morning After* won a Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Folk Recording. $20. **Jan. 8: Bitch/Ferron.** Joint performance by 2 women's music stars from different generations. Bitch is an inventive performance artist who sets her culturally and politically contentious postbeat lyrics to wildly offbeat, heavily percussive, and partly improvised music that she performs on electric violin, ukulele, and bass guitar. *The Advocate* calls her music "a torrid brew of sexually and politically charged spoken-sung lyrics, stripped-down instrumentation, and assorted tribal-edged percussion." Ferron is a veteran Canadian singer-songwriter who sings in a clear, passionate alto with a spiky conversational edge and writes searching personal songs with hauntingly beautiful melodies and lyrics as taut and reverberant as the emotions they express. $17.50. **Jan. 11: Paul Cebar Tomorrow Sound.** Funk-inflected world music ensemble led by veteran Milwaukee singer-songwriter Cebar. The band's latest CD *Tomorrow Sound Now for Yes Music People* blends funk, gospel, and reggae into a brew that the *Washington Post* calls "full-on pan-ethnic party music." $15. **Jan. 12: An Dro.** Celtic-based worldbeat quartet whose capacious repertoire includes traditional Irish melodies, medieval French songs, Breton dance tunes, Scandinavian refrains, Appalachian influences, Arabic rhythms, and African grooves, along with dance-oriented original that mix and match several of these traditions. $15. **Jan. 13: Mountain Heart.** *See review, p. 61.* Winner of the 1999 International Bluegrass Association Emerging Artist of the Year Award, this bluegrass ensemble blends traditional and progressive styles with the energy of Southern rock. Its 2005 CD, *The Journey,* is a collection of traditional southern gospel tunes, and its 2006 CD, *Wide Open,* blends originals with songs by well-known country and bluegrass songwriters. The band's 2010 CD, *Road That Never Ends,* was recorded live at the Ark. $30. **Jan. 14: The Yellow Room Gang.** In-the-round performances by this group of 8 award-winning veteran Michigan songwriters who get together regularly to share their new work. Members are **David Barrett, Jim Bizer, Annie Capps, Kitty Donohoe, Jan Krist, Matt Watroba,** and **Michael Hough** & **David Tamulevich** of the local duo Mustard's Retreat. The Yellow Room Gang's eponymous compilation CD features brand-new and older songs by each artist. $15. **Jan. 15: Bearfoot.** Acclaimed young bluegrass band from Alaska whose repertoire includes Americana-flavored originals, freshly arranged traditional songs, and bluegrass arrangements of contemporary songs. "It bounces, it swings, it dives head-first into minor keys and unexpected (but totally workable) phrasings," says *Bluegrass Unlimited* of the band's music. $15. **Jan. 16: Shelby Lynne.** Acoustic performance by this veteran country singer-songwriter from Alabama known for the graceful ease with which her music assimilates R&B, soul, rock, and pop flavors without diluting its country simplicity and directness. Her 2008 CD *Just a Little Lovin'* is an acclaimed collection of freshly reimagined Dusty Springfield covers. $25. **Jan. 18: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). **Jan. 19: Martin Sexton.** Widely acclaimed singer-songwriter from Boston known for bold, thoughtful original songs that blend elements of rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk balladry with the mannerisms of R&B and soul, and for dynamic vocals that range from falsetto crooning to muted trumpet sounds. "Martin Sexton is ripe with raw, expansive talent. His voice comes in a hundred impossible shades. His songs are sweet and spirited and soulful. His repertoire is like a cross-country tour of the American musical vernacular," says the *Boston Globe.* He's currently showcasing material from *Sugarcoating,* a collection of soulful acoustic songs on a mix of public and personal themes. Opening act is **Bhi Bhiman,** a Sri Lankan American pop-folk singer-songwriter. $40. 7 p.m. **Jan. 20: The RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites who have appeared in numerous festivals and on the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed,* a 1994 Ark performance. $11 at the door only. **Jan. 21: International Guitar Night.** Solo and collaborative performances by a quartet of acoustic guitar virtuosos. Organized by **Brian Gore,** a San Francisco fingerstyle guitarist whose music draws inspiration from myth and modern literature, the IGN touring show currently also features the German gypsy swing guitarist **Lulo Reinhardt,** the versatile Brazilian composer-guitarist **Marco Pereira,** and **Adrian Legg,** a perennial winner of *Guitar Player* magazine's Best Fingerstylist award whose melodically inventive compositions offer an elegant, intricate blend of country, jazz, folk, rock, Celtic, and classical idioms. $30. **Jan. 22: Lonesome County and Goldmine Pickers.** Double bill. Lonesome County is a hard-driving traditional bluegrass quintet from Livingston County, led by singer-guitarist Chad Jeremy, that won the 2006 Renfro Valley Bluegrass Talent Contest. With mandolinist Kevin Frank, banjoist Lee Kaufmann, fiddler Marty Somberg, and bassist Paul Shapiro. The Goldmine Pickers is an acoustic string quartet from Goshen, Indiana, known for its 3-part vocal harmonies and its inventive blend of bluegrass, jazz, and Celtic influences. $15. **Jan. 23: The Juliets.** Local classically influenced postpunk pop-rock chamber quintet from Ypsilanti whose instrumentation includes violin and cello. The band was recently featured in one of Chrysler's "Imported from Detroit" commercials. $10. **Jan. 24: "Acoustic Café Evening."** Touring version of the internationally syndicated weekly radio show produced locally by Rob Reinhart. Lineup: **Erin McKeown** is an up-and-coming singer-songwriter known for her distinctive guitar style, her droll understated lyrics, and her eclectic mix of musical styles, from 40s swing, cowboy jazz, and contemporary funk to Tin Pan Alley and folk-rock. **Carrie Rodriguez** is an acclaimed young Texas-bred alt-country singer-songwriter whose sultry, engagingly intimate rough-hewn vocals and sly but emotionally frank lyrics often provoke comparisons to Lucinda Williams, with whom she recently toured as the opening act. **Kelly Joe Phelps,** a talented blues singer from the Pacific Northwest with a rich, husky voice, sings with an achingly beautiful melancholy that defines the emotional core of his music. He's also a virtuoso slide, 6-string, and 12-string guitarist. His repertoire includes folk blues by the likes of Mississippi Fred McDowell, along with several strong originals. $20. **Jan. 31: Peyton Tochterman.** Charlottesville country-folk singer-songwriter who has a brand-new CD, *A New World.* FREE. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers.

jazz

Return of an icon

Ron Brooks at the Ravens Club

No one has yet written a comprehensive history of jazz in Ann Arbor, but when someone does, a major chapter will have to be dedicated to the Ron Brooks Trio. The bassist leader has for decades played a central role in the music scene of the city, as a performer and as the proprietor of its longest-lived jazz club, the Bird of Paradise, which thrived for almost twenty years before it closed in 2004.

Brooks began his musical career while studying at the U-M and was soon playing with local and visiting musicians; his early recordings include a challenging 1962 album with pianist Bob James, who would eventually make it big playing more popular kinds of music; a date with the adventuresome woodwind player Eric Dolphy; and albums with the Contemporary Jazz Quintet and Mixed Bag.

The Mixed Bag combo included Eddie Russ, who became the first pianist in the Ron Brooks Trio, a position held by many others over the years, including Harvey Reed, Stanley Cowell, and Rick Roe; drummers have included Pete Siers and George Davidson. When Brooks opened the Bird of Paradise, Russ returned to the fold once again in one of the more memorable versions of the Trio. For almost nineteen years, the Brooks trio was the house rhythm section at the Bird, working with visitors and playing regular weekly gigs on their own.

In the seven years since he closed the Bird, Brooks has continued to perform throughout southern Michigan, but he hasn't had many chances to play in Ann Arbor. The newly opened Ravens Club on Main Street has seen fit to make up for this, and now the Ron Brooks Trio has a regular Wednesday night gig at that restaurant and bar, with pianist Tad Weed and drummer George Davidson joining Brooks. The Ravens Club likes to think of itself as harkening back to speakeasy days, but none of this gets in the way of enjoying the food, drink, or music, and the jazz seems to be bringing people in. An upright piano is set up in the window on a platform, and the trio is backlit by the Main Street night scene. The area in front is occupied by serious listeners, while those for whom the music is just background sit in the rear of the long room.

The music begins at 9 o'clock, featuring young pianists such as the excellent Ian Finkelstein from the U-M jazz program. Weed then takes over for the rest of the night, although other musicians sometimes pop in and take turns on various instruments. Weed has such an intense way of approaching his instrument that a listener immediately forgets his is only an upright piano: the room is filled with cascading runs, rich chords, melodies, countermelodies, and rhythmic shifts. The other two members of the trio respond in different yet complementary ways: Brooks holds down the beat, favoring the lower register of the bass, while Davidson dances around his drum set, constantly changing rhythms, answering riffs, playing his own melodies without overwhelming the others. The repertoire is familiar: mostly Great American Songbook or modern jazz classics, but they are all transformed by excitement, wit, and grace. Years of playing together are on offer here, and all three musicians play with the spontaneity and infectious pleasure that lies at the heart of all good jazz.

—Piotr Michalowski

The B-Side

310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 13: Paper Thick Walls.** Chicago quintet that plays introspective, often haunting pop-folk. Opening act is **Moon Roots,** a local jam band whose music blends reggae, psychedelic pop-folk, and rock. **Jan. 14: "Michigan Metal Meltdown."** Triple bill with the Redford post-hardcore band **The Skeptic,** the local metal band **Bury the Witness,** and the Belleville metalcore band **SycAmour.** Opening acts are the Milan High melodic metal bands **Peace Be Still** and **Sirens for the Carrier. Jan. 20: Infinity Hour and Someday Came Suddenly.** Double bill featuring the local pop-punk band Infinity Hour and the Dexter pop-punk hardcore band Someday Came Suddenly. Opening acts are local hip-hop MCs **Delegate** and **Authentic** and Community High pop-folk singer-songwriter **Olivia Roumel. Jan. 27: K.O.K.** Local teen hip-hop ensemble that tonight celebrates the release of its debut CD on the Neutral Zone's Youth Owned Records label. Opening acts are other local hip-hop MCs and dancers TBA. **Jan. 28: "B-Side Acoustic Night."** With **Isaac Scobey-Thal, Paulissen,** and other local teen singer-songwriters TBA.

The Black Pearl

302 S. Main **222–0400**

This seafood and martini bar features live music Tues. & Wed., 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Jan. 4 & 11:** TBA. **Jan. 18: Beth Stalker & Jim Rawlings.** An eclectic mix of styles, from blues, R&B, and jazz to rock and country, by the Detroit Music Award–winning duo of singer-songwriter Stalker and songwriter-guitarist Rawlings. **Jan. 25: Elise Amato & Matt Pietryga.** Local acoustic duo that performs a wide variety of pop, soul, and classic rock.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the 8-Ball Saloon (below the club) and at etix.com. **Every Tues.** (except Jan. 3 & 24)**: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands each week TBA. **Jan. 3: The Sympathy Orchestra.** Detroit progressive rock quartet whose influences range from the Beatles and the Who to Emerson, Lake & Palmer and Yes. Opening acts are **Fade to Black,** a Lansing alternative rock quartet, and **Spektators,** a Lansing electronic hip-hop duo. **Jan. 4: Violet Void.** Industrial-goth trio from Jackson. Opening acts are the one-man industrial band **Kaustikutt,** the local electro-industrial dance musician **Synkraft,** the Jackson postgrunge quartet **Sterratic,** and the Concord (MI) country-based blues-rock duo **The Alcoholic Oracles. Jan. 5: Tree City.** This local hip-hop collective hosts a show headlined by Detroit-area hip-hop MCs **Red Pill** and **Hir-O.** Opening acts are area hip-hop MCs **L05, Phryme Rhyme Boss, Intricate Dialect, Passalacqua, D.S.B.,** and **Chirish. Jan.**

6: Ann Arbor Soul Club. Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Jan. 7: Starling Electric.** Popular local retro-psychedelic orchestral pop quartet. Opening acts are **Bear Lake,** a Rochester (MI) electroacoustic pop-rock band, and **The Ultrasounds,** a highly regarded Ann Arbor–bred futuristic retro-rock trio now based in Chicago. **Jan. 11: Seize the Karp.** Lansing-area progressive funk-rock quintet. Opening act is **Burton's Garden,** a Lansing-area blues-funk jam quintet. **Jan. 12: Lil Wyte.** Memphis ghettotech rapper known for his machine gun-like delivery. Opening acts are area hip-hop MCs **Jelly Roll, Partee, MC Kadence,** and **Prhyme Rhyme Boss.** Advance tickets: $12 ($14 at the door). **Jan. 13: Machine Gun Kelly.** Cleveland hip-hop MC whose moniker is a tribute to his rat-a-tat-tat rapping. MTV named him the Hottest Breakthrough MC of 2011. Advance tickets: $18 ($20 at the door). **Jan. 14: Slim Pickenz & the Big Appetite.** Local prog-rock band. Opening acts are the local metal-edged punk-rock "funcore" septet **Coke Dick Motorcycle Awesome,** the Pinckney hip-hop duo **AK420,** the Ypsilanti folk-rock quintet **Lawless Carver,** and other bands TBA. **Jan. 18: English the Band.** Lansing pop-rock band. Opening acts are **Our Brother the Native,** a local neo-soul R&B trio, and **Young Heirlooms,** an arty pop-folk sextet from Cincinnati known for Brian Wilson–influenced vocal harmonies. **Jan. 19: Thinner Teed.** Chicago progressive rock jam band whose music blends elements of funk, electro, and bluegrass. Opening acts are the Lansing experimental pop band **Gnome Village,** the local funk-rock jam quartet **Teenage Octopus,** and the Detroit indie rock trio **Michigan Kids. Jan. 20: Bedroxx.** Local hip-hop MC who tonight celebrates the release of his CD *Fire.* **Jan. 21: Turquoise Jeep.** Satiric lo-fi dance ensemble known for its bawdy send-ups of the stereotypical sexist braggadocio of hip-hop and R&B records. "Their lyrics might be absurdly sexual, and their dance moves might seem like something that wouldn't be out of place at the Found Footage Festival, but at the same time, it's fun," says hevemedia.com reviewer Dominick Mayer. "They've got the bounce of 1980s hip-hop, and harken back to a time when not every single MC was concerned with coming off hard as hell, 24/7." Advance tickets: $15. **Jan. 24: Open Land.** Grand Rapids soul-inflected indie rock band fronted by singer-songwriter Dean Wiers-Windemuller. Opening acts are **Christopher Adam,** an Ypsilanti singer-songwriter and guitarist whose music draws on blues, rock, folk, pop, gospel and R&B influences, and **Chris Dupont,** a local alt-country singer-songwriter. **Jan. 25:** TBA. **Jan. 26: 3Lau.** Las Vegas progressive house DJ. Advance tickets: $15. **Jan. 27: Chris Bathgate.** Talented local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic folk-rock story songs in a variety of moods. He has an acclaimed new CD, *Salt Year.* Opening acts are **Nathan Kalish & the Wildfire,** a Southern-tinged blues-rock band from Grand Rapids, and **Samantha Crain,** a young alt-country singer-songwriter from Oklahoma. "Like a prairie-bred, meat-and-potato-fed Joanna Newsom, Crain's vocals are quivering and emotive but visceral, shining," says *Paste Magazine* reviewer Liz Stinson. **Jan. 28: XV.** *All ages admitted.* Acclaimed young hip-hop MC from Wichita. Opening acts are **Gameboi,** a local teen hip-hop MC, and another act TBA. Advance tickets: $12 ($14 at the door). 7–10 p.m. **Jan. 28: The Werks.** Dayton funk-rock jam band. 11 p.m.–2 a.m. **Jan. 29: "Folk the Police."** Local musicians perform acoustic covers of gangster rap and other hip-hop records. Performers include singer-songwriters **Jamie Register, Hana Malhas, Nathan K,** and **Nicole P'Simer,** along with the bands **Dragon Wagon, Rootstand, The Appleseed Collective, Back Forty, Lake Folk, Match by Match,** and **Good N Gangster.** Advance tickets: $10 (under age 21, $13). 8 p.m.–2 a.m. **Jan. 30: Augustana.** San Diego alt-rock band, best known for the hit single "Boston," whose laid-back, melodic songs are reminiscent of mid-90s bands like Counting Crows and the Goo Goo Dolls. Opening act is **Graffiti 6,** a London (UK) duo whose music is an agile, seductive blend of pop-rock, psychedelia, R&B, and British Northern Soul. Advance tickets: $15 ($20 at the door). 8 p.m.–1 a.m.

Blue Tractor
207 E. Washington **222–4095**

This downtown tavern features live music Wed. 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Open Mike.** All acoustic musicians and vocalists invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter Zachariah Griffin.

The Circus
210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This 2nd-floor downtown club features live music on Wed. & occasional other nights 10 p.m.–2 a.m. DJ on Thurs. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing (unless otherwise noted). Also, live music or karaoke on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. in the street-level **Millennium Club** or basement **Cavern Club** (cover with dancing in these clubs). Age 21 & older admitted on Wed. & Thurs., age 18 & older on Fri. & Sat. **Jan. 4: Dragon Wagon.** Highly regarded local experimental acoustic roots-music sextet that calls its music "bluegrass folk-rock with a touch of Irish whiskey." **Jan. 11: Henhouse Prowlers.** Traditional bluegrass by this Chicago band whose songs touch on such classic bluegrass themes as love, loss, work, regret, and death. **Jan. 18: Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys.** Lansing swing-flavored bluegrass band led by singer-guitarist Lindsay Rachel Petroff. **Jan. 21: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. Cover, dancing. In the Millennium Club. **Jan. 25: Whistle Pigs.** Bluegrass-flavored alt-country Americana trio from Carbondale (IL) whose instrumentation features banjo, accordion, and upright bass. **Jan. 28: Killer Flamingos.** See above. In the Millennium Club.

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30–10 p.m. and Thurs. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., and a DJ on Fri. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke on Sun., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Jan. 5: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Jan. 7: Josh Hill Band.** Akron-based blues-rock trio. **Jan. 12: All Directions.** Canton quintet led by keyboardist Michael Ager and featuring vocalist Kimberly Ringer that plays a versatile mix of R&B, blues-rock, Motown, and jazz. **Jan. 14: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues trio. **Jan. 19: Doro.** Pop and rock covers by this U-M student band. **Jan. 21: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague.** An eclectic mix of rock covers by these local brothers. **Jan. 26: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Jan. 28: Lucas Paul Band.** See above.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main **665–9468**

Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8:30–10:30 p.m. and Sun. 6–7:30 p.m. The Sun. shows are streamed live on a3radio.com. No cover, no dancing. **Jan. 6: John Finan and Sharon Tse.** Double bill. Finan is a Canton singer-songwriter who writes country-tinged folk-pop, and Tse a young singer-songwriter whose repertoire ranges from confessional folk-pop to jazz-inflected songs. **Jan. 7: Marco and Asim.** Folk-rock and blues by the local duo of singer-guitarist Marco Bruschtein and bassist Asim Khan. **Jan. 8: Blaize Glander.** Detroit singer-songwriter who writes pop-folk songs in the tradition of Paul Simon and James Taylor. **Jan. 13: The Fauxgrass Quartet.** Progressive bluegrass quartet from Grand Rapids. **Jan. 14: Bobby Pennock and Kim Gnagey.** Pennock is a Plymouth folk-rock singer-songwriter, and Gnagey is a Plymouth singer-songwriter whose music draws on folk, blues, and jazz idioms. **Jan. 15: Allison Downey & John Austin.** West Michigan acoustic folk-rock duo of singer-songwriter Downey and bassist Austin. **Jan. 20: Gwyneth Hayes Duo.** Jazz-soul fusion by the local duo of singer-songwriter and bassist Hayes and guitarist Jake Reichbart. **Jan. 21: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Jan. 22:** Closed. **Jan. 27: Siusan O'Rourke & Zig Zeitler.** Acoustic Americana roots music by this Saginaw husband-and-wife singer-songwriter duo, co-owners of the White Crow Conservatory of Music. **Jan. 28: Black Hat.** Jazz-tinged pop-folk fusion by this Detroit art-rock trio fronted by singer-songwriter Caroline Maun, a WSU English professor, and Frankie the K. **Jan. 29: Dean Wiers-Windemuller.** Americana singer-songwriter from Grand Rapids.

Creekside Grill and Bar
5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate basement bar in this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 29: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. With vocalists Jim Tarravantes and Patty O'Connor. 6:30–9 p.m.

Dreamland Theater
26 N. Washington
Ypsilanti **657–2337**

This downtown Ypsilanti theater features occasional live music, 9–11 p.m. or later. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. January schedule TBA.

Goodnite Gracie
301 W. Huron **623–1443**

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. January schedule TBA; the club may be closed for renovations.

Guy Hollerin's
3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. & occasional Fri., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. If tickets are available in advance, they are sold at the restaurant. **Jan. 7: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Jan. 14: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James-style vocalist. **Jan. 21: Harper & His Midwest Kind.** Blues-rock band led by Peter Harper, a blues singer-songwriter from Australia, now transplanted to Grass Lake, who plays blues harp and didgeridoo. The band has an acclaimed CD on the Blind Pig label, *Down to the Rhythm.* **Jan. 28: The Bluescasters.** Veteran local blues and blues-rock quartet.

The Habitat Lounge
3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, DJ Mon., 7 p.m.–midnight, and solo pianists Tues.–Sun., 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Jan. 3: Rick Canzano.** Northville pop-rock multi-instrumentalist. **Jan. 4 & 5: JoyRide.** Popular Flint dance band. **Jan. 6: Rockestra.** Versatile rock cover band whose repertoire ranges from the 60s to the present. **Jan. 7: Rhythm Kings.** Horn-fired jazz-rock dance band. **Jan. 10: Rick Canzano.** See above. **Jan. 11 & 12: Dal Bouey.** Detroit R&B and neo-soul show band led by vocalist Bouey. **Jan. 13 & 14: Brena.** Grand Rapids pop-rock quintet. **Jan. 17–21: Chateau.** Veteran pop dance band. **Jan. 24–26: Slice.** East Lansing pop dance quartet. **Jan. 27: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **Jan. 28: Starfarm.** 80s covers by this East Lansing retro rock and pop quintet. **Jan. 31: Rick Canzano.** See above.

Live at PJ's
102 S. First St. **623–1443**

January schedule TBA; the club may be closed for renovations.

The Necto
516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 6 nights a week, Mon.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 12: MEDMA Presents Impulse!** The Michigan Electronic Dance Music Association's monthly showcase of progressive house, trance, and electronic dance music TBA. **Jan. 14: "Plastic Passion."** DJ Josh Burge hosts this monthly retro dance party with an eclectic mix of everything from New Wave, Britpop, and postpunk to acid house, goth rock, and industrial.

Old Town
122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Jan. 1: Chris Buhalis.** This local singer-songwriter performs his annual tribute to Hank Williams and Townes Van Zandt to mark the anniversary of their deaths. He's accompanied by dobro player Dave Keeney and mandolinist Jason Dennie. 5 p.m. until he's done. **Jan. 8: Charlie Weaver.** Acoustic folk music "with a touch of bluegrass and trout stream rhythms" by this northern Michigan singer-guitarist (and fishing guru), a former Ann Arborite who was a regular at the Old Town Sunday night folk jams in the early 80s. **Jan. 15: John Latini.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. **Jan. 22: Sunnyside Up.** Chicago-based acoustic string trio led by former Ann Arborite and Deadbeat Society mandolinist Colby Maddox that plays a mix of bluegrass, swing, and fiddle music, along with originals in the same vein. **Jan. 29: Andrew Brown.** Local Dixieland-oriented Americana singer-songwriter, a member of the Appleseed Collective.

Oz's Music Environment
1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues. 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover by donation, no dancing. **Jan. 3:**

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase
314 East Liberty AnnArbor
If you live to laugh, life is here

Warren B. Hall
January 5 6 7
"The Bob & Tom Show"
Comics on Duty performing for the troops from Iraq and Kuwait to Japan and Korea

Ahmed Ahmed
January 12 13 14
"The Axis of Evil Comedy Tour"
"Swingers"
"Tracey Takes On"
"Roseanne"
"JAG"
"Tough Crowd"
MTV's "Punk'd"
"Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show"
"The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno
and a whole lot more!!

Myq Kaplan
January 19 20 21
"Comedy Central Presents"
"The Tonight Show"
"The Late Show" w/Letterman
"The Late Late Show"
Finalist on "Last Comic Standing"
Comedy Central's "Live at Gotham"

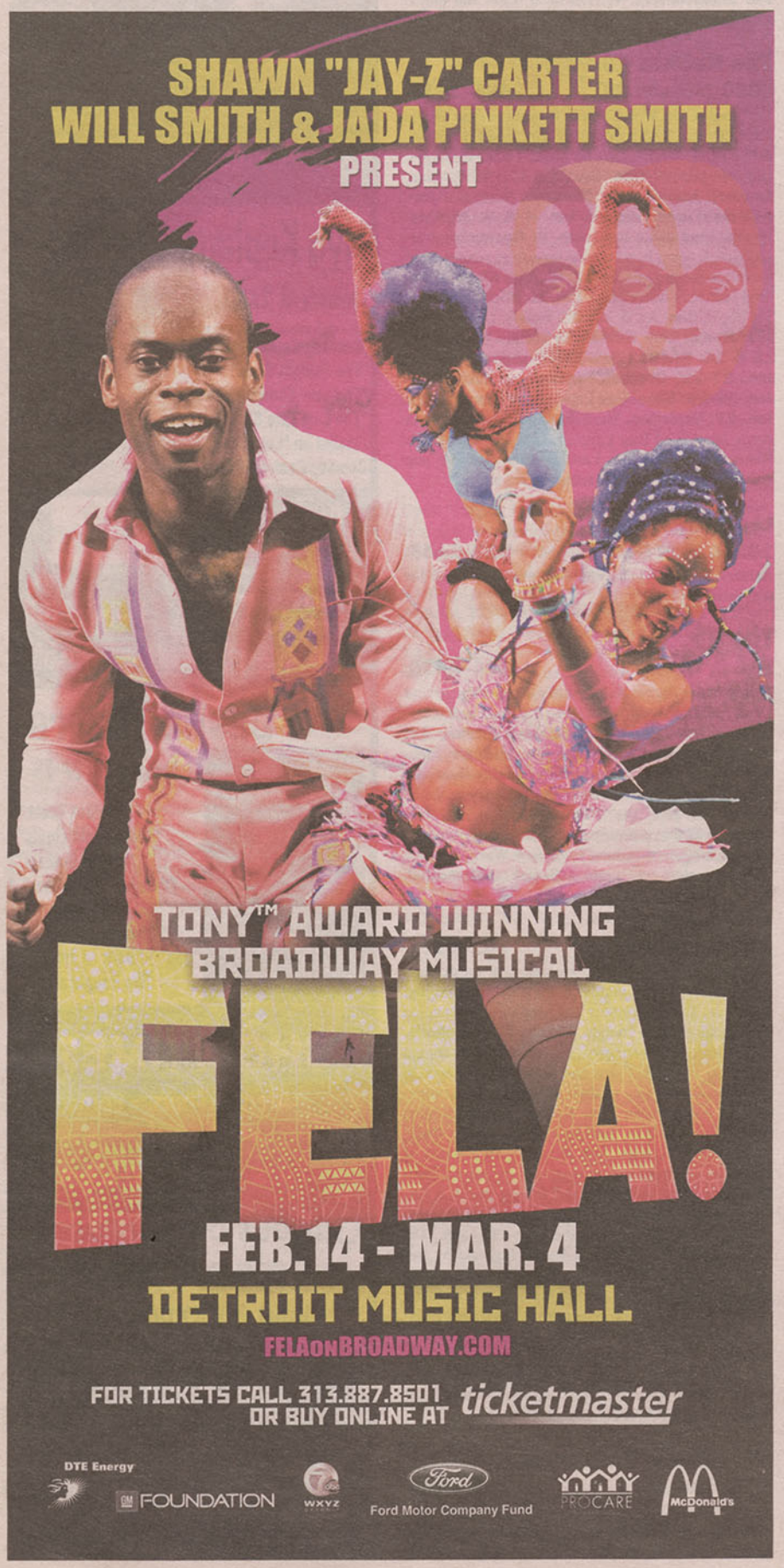
Benefit for Planned Parenthood
January 25 - Showtime 8pm
Starring Dwayne Gill
Kate Brindle Andy Beningo and hosted by Mike Evitts

Dustin Ybarra
January 26 27 28
"Prison Break"
"Friday Night Lights"
"Live at Gotham"
TV series "Glory Daze"
The movies
"Beware the Gonzo"
"Hop" - "Balls to the Wall"
"We Bought a Zoo"

SHOWTIMES
Wed. & Thurs. - 8pm
Wed. night is normally Open Mic Comedy Jamm
Fri. & Sat. - 8 & 10:30pm

Curious or Confused?
734-996-9080
www.aacomedy.com

$4 OFF
This coupon valid for $4 off one general admission at the door.
Valid Thursday, Friday & Saturday's Late Show
Expires January 28 , 2012
Excludes Special Engagements & Select Shows



Music at Nightspots

"Songwriters Open Mike." All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Jan. 24: "Ukulele Jam."** Musicians of all ability levels invited.

Passport
3776 S. State **222–1111**

This south-side restaurant features live music Mon. 5:30–8:30 p.m., Thurs. 6–10 p.m., and Sat. 8 p.m.–midnight. Also, dance DJs Fri. 8 p.m.–2 a.m., and ballroom dance lessons Sun. 5–9 p.m. Karaoke Tues. 8 p.m.–midnight. No cover, dancing. **Every Mon.: Open Mike.** All musicians invited. **Every Sat.:** Dance bands TBA. **Jan. 5, 12, & 19:** Jazz bands TBA. **Jan. 26: Paul Keller Quartet.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this local ensemble led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo.

The Quarter Bistro
300 S. Maple **929–9200**

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs. 6:30–9 p.m., Sat. 7:30–10 p.m., and occasional other nights. Also, a DJ on Fri., 6–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Jan. 5: Frankie D'Angelo.** Acoustic pop-rock by this Detroit singer-songwriter. **Jan. 7: Kevin Wilson.** Classic rock and country singer-guitarist. **Jan. 12: Bob Skon.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Jan. 14: Gia Warner.** Acoustic pop-folk singer-songwriter from Northville. **Jan. 19:** TBA. **Jan. 21: All Directions.** Canton quintet led by keyboardist Michael Ager and featuring vocalist Kimberly Ringer that plays a versatile mix of R&B, blues-rock, Motown, and jazz. **Jan. 26: Frankie D'Angelo.** See above. **Jan. 28: Jimmy Auquier.** Acoustic pop-rock singer-guitarist from Detroit.

Ravens Club
207 S. Main **214–0400**

This downtown bar & grill features live music, Wed. 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Ron Brooks Trio.** *See review, p. 46.* Mainstream bebop-rooted jazz by this trio led by veteran local bassist Brooks. With pianist Tad Weed and drummer George Davidson.

Silvio's Organic Pizza
715 North University **214–6666**

This campus-area restaurant features live music Fri. 7–9 p.m., and occasional other nights. No cover, no dancing. **Jan. 6: Bliss.** The local trio of singer-songwriter Laura Massaro, guitarist Craig Brann, and percussionist Don Allen performs an eclectic mix of pop, folk, and world music, including originals, covers, and improvisations. **Jan. 13: The Dorkestra.** Local folk-rock swing quintet whose music blends jazz, African, Middle Eastern, funk, and pop influences. **Jan. 20: The Dellwoods.** Local jazz quintet. **Jan. 27: Isosceles.** Versatile local acoustic trio that plays a mix of jazz, swing, country, pop, and folk. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, bassist Tim Berla, and guitarist Jim Cooney. **Jan. 30: "Chamber Jam."** The local classical chamber music ensemble **Classical Revolution** hosts a jam session. All musicians invited to play everything from Bach to Bartok. 7:30–11 p.m.

Tap Room
201 W. Michigan
Ypsilanti **482–5320**

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music most Wed. 7–11 p.m., Thurs. 8 p.m.–midnight, & Sat. and occasional Fri. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, DJ with Latin dance music, Wed. 9 p.m.–1 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Jan. 7:** TBA. **Jan. 14: Pale Dave.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Jan. 21: Ann Arbor Music Center Kids Showcase.** Young musicians perform pop and rock covers. 6–8 p.m. **Jan. 21:** TBA. **Jan. 28: The Shelter Dogs.** Local self-styled "lounge-a-billy" trio that plays vintage swing, rockabilly, and blues. With upright bassist Todd Perkins, guitarist Pete Bullard, and drummer Tom Twiss.

Vinology
110 S. Main **222–9841**

This wine bar and restaurant features live jazz, Thurs. 9 p.m.–midnight, and occasional other nights. No cover, no dancing (unless otherwise noted). **Jan. 5: Paul Keller Quartet.** See Passport. **Jan. 12: Miles Brown Trio.** Jazz trio led by composer-bassist Brown. With alto saxophonist Alex Graham and guitarist Chris Buzzelli. **Jan. 19: Scott Gwinnell Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit-area pianist Gwinnell, a University of Toledo visiting music professor who is also the music director of vocalese legend Jon Hendricks' Vocalstra. **Jan. 26: Gwenyth Hayes Trio.** Jazz-soul fusion by the local trio of singer-songwriter and bassist Hayes, guitarist Jake Reichbart, and drummer Rob Avsharian.

Wolverine State Brewing Co.
2019 W. Stadium **369–2990**

This west side brewpub features occasional live music, 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 19: 16 More Miles.** Local alt-country band. **Jan. 20: Doug Horn Trio.** 40s & 50s swing and bebop by a jazz ensemble led by local alto saxophonist Horn. **Jan. 21: Dragon Wagon.** See Circus.

Woodruff's
36 E. Cross
Ypsilanti **483–2800**

This club in Ypsilanti's Depot Town features live music Sun. & Thurs. 8–11 p.m., Tues. 7–10 p.m., and Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, karaoke on Thurs. 11 p.m.–1 a.m. and DJ on Sun. & Tues. 11 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (except Tues.), dancing. **Every Sun.: Dan Bennett Quartet.** Experimental jazz ensemble led by Nomo saxophonist Bennett. 8–11 p.m. **Every Sun.: Todd Osborne.** This Detroit-area electronic musician spins techno, electronica, funk, and soul records. 11 p.m.–2 a.m. **Every Mon.: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Black Pearl. **Every Tues.: "Acoustic Open Mike."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter **Dave Boutette.** 7–10 p.m. **Every Tues.: "Absolute Beginners."** DJs Tim Sendra and Fred Thomas play 60s-style pop music. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. **Dec. 28–Jan. 1: Mittenfest VI.** 5-night showcase of 60 local and Michigan bands in a wide spectrum of genres. Daily lineups available at mittenfest.org. A benefit for the nonprofit youth tutoring and writing center 826michigan. $10 per night. 4 p.m.–2 a.m. **Jan. 3:** TBA. 8–11 p.m. **Jan. 4: Silk Filled Stilts.** Veteran local experimental jam-rock band. Opening acts are the local rock band **Van Houten,** the local rock band **Hiss,** and surf-rock garage trio **Ten Bellow. Jan. 5:** TBA. 8–11 p.m. **Jan. 6: Dragon Wagon.** See Circus. Opening acts are **The End Times Spasm Band,** a Fort Wayne roots swing quartet, and **Ghost City Searchlight,** a Dearborn postpunk quartet whose music draws on Celtic and American folk idioms. **Jan. 7: Zlata Trouble's Why Not? Burlesque.** Local troupe whose shows blend traditional burlesque, modern dance, comedy, and contemporary vaudeville. Opening act is **Devil Elvis,** an Elvis tribute show by a quintet led by this Ypsilanti punk-rockabilly singer. **Jan. 10:** TBA. 8–11 p.m. **Jan. 11:** TBA. **Jan. 12: The Afternoon Round.** Local Americana rock band. Opening acts are **Eric Kelly & the Crooked Little Reasons**, a local alt-country-rock band led by veteran singer-songwriter Kelly, and **The Dirty Dives,** a Holly (MI) alt-country quartet. 8–11 p.m. **Jan. 13:** TBA. **Jan. 14:** TBA. **Jan. 17:** TBA. 8–11 p.m. **Jan. 18:** TBA. **Jan. 19:** TBA. 8–11 p.m. **Jan. 20:** TBA. **Jan. 21: Koffin Kats.** Detroit-area psychobilly punk band. Opening acts are **Super Good at Party,** a raucous, semi-musical Detroit-area acoustic party-punk trio, and **Arrogant Bastards,** an Inkster punk-rock trio. **Jan. 24:** TBA. 8–11 p.m. **Jan. 25:** TBA. **Jan. 26:** TBA. 8–11 p.m. **Jan. 27: Lizerrd.** Ypsilanti post-punk rock 'n' roll quintet. Opening acts are the Detroit rock quartet **Golden Torso,** the Ypsilanti postpunk rock 'n' roll trio **Congress,** and the Grand Rapids instrumental math-rock duo **Charles the Osprey. Jan. 28: "Elbow Deep."** Drag show and gay and lesbian dance night hosted by Maxi and Jennifer of the House of Chanel, with a DJ TBA. **Jan. 31:** TBA. 8–11 p.m.

Zal Gaz Grotto
2070 W. Stadium **663–1202**

This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Mon. 8:15–11 p.m., Tues. 5:30–8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Mon: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. **Every Tues.: Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger. **Jan. 13: Paul Keller Orchestra.** See above. Tonight the band, which started in 1988 as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, celebrates its 23rd birthday and the 1st anniversary of its weekly Monday nights at Zal Gaz Grotto. Preceded by a fish fry, 5:30–8 p.m. The music runs 8:30–11 p.m.

January Events

We want to know about your event!
Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By email:** hinch@aaobserver.com
- **By phone:** 769–3175
- **By mail:** John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
- **By fax:** 769–3375
- **After-hours drop box:** right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:
An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at **arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

arbormail:
Get your alerts by email—send a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at arborweb.com/arbormail_help.html.

★ *Denotes a free event.*

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 SUNDAY

★**"First Miles of 2012": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Short ride to a brunch spot for eating and socializing. Distance may be reduced or ride cancelled in bad weather; call ahead if uncertain. *10 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 545–0541.*

"Hands-On Holidays: Winter Games": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 26–Jan. 6.* Hands-on winter activities, including building igloos out of blocks, "ice fishing," and more. Also, at 1 & 3 p.m. on Jan. 1 only, a presentation by the **Mid-Union Sled Haulers,** featuring mushers, sled dogs, and racing equipment. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $10 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

★**"Tibetan Buddhism": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Sun.* Talk by **Gelek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. *10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994–3387.*

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sun.* All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Mitchell Field, Fuller Rd. Free. hac_ultimate@ameritech.net, 846–9418.*

Advanced Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Popular Dayton caller Kathy Anderson calls contras and square dances to live music by the Louisville trio **Coffee Zombies.** For experienced dancers. Preceded at 11 a.m. by a potluck brunch (bring a dish to pass). *12:30–3:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $15 in advance, $20 at the door. 260–9027.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Minnesota. The U-M also has games this month against **Wisconsin** (Jan. 8, time TBA), **Northwestern** (Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.), and **MSU** (Jan. 17, 7 p.m.). *4 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

Angry parents square off in the Performance Network production of Yasmina Reza's dark comedy *God of Carnage*, which begins Jan. 12.

GALLERIES

57 **Exhibit Openings** *Katie Whitney*

FILMS

63 **Film Screenings** *John Hinchey & Katie Whitney*

EVENTS REVIEWS

52 **Ellen Rowe**
The art of the quartet *Piotr Michalowski*

61 **Mountain Heart**
Turbograss *James M. Manheim*

65 **Eileen Pollack**
At home with the militia *Keith Taylor*

67 **Denis Matsuev**
Not another Russian banger *James Leonard*

71 **Verve Pipe**
Muscular family music *Sandor Slomovits*

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

46 **Nightspots** *John Hinchey*
Ron Brooks *Piotr Michalowski*

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

University of Michigan Library
M Library

EXHIBITS

DUDERSTADT CENTER GALLERY
Through January 10
12:00-6:00 pm, Mon-Fri
plant by Paul Kaiser, new work exploring the abandoned Packard plant in Detroit

HATCHER LIBRARY, AUDUBON ROOM
January 13 - March 5
Sacred Hands, manuscripts with texts from the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

EVENTS

HATCHER LIBRARY GALLERY
Wednesday, January 18
5:30-7:00 pm
The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story, a conversation with author Tiya Miles and Kristin Hass

Friday, January 20
5:30-7:00 pm
Reception celebrating the unveiling of a hand-illuminated edition of *The St. John's Bible*

Wednesday, January 25
4:00-6:00 pm
"Sacred Hands: An Exhibit," a talk with Pablo Alvarez, Evyn Kropf, and Arthur Verhoogt

Thursday, January 26
4:00-5:30 pm
"Numbers as Tools for Thinking," with Michael Frank

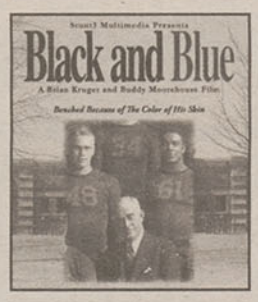
MICHIGAN UNION BALLROOM
Monday, January 16
2:00-5:00 pm
Performance by *Step Afrika!*, the first professional company in the world dedicated to stepping, which uses the body as an instrument to create intricate rhythms and sounds
Step Afrika! appears by arrangement with MCM Arts and Entertainment.

LYDIA MENDELSSOHN THEATRE
Thursday, January 19
7:30 pm
Screening of *Fordson: Faith, Fasting, Football*, followed by a panel discussion

Parking on central campus available in public structure at 650 S. Forest
All events are free and open to the public.
More information at:
www.lib.umich.edu/events

January 2012 Event highlights
Ann Arbor District Library

January 4



Darold Treffert, MD

Julie A. Donnelly, PhD

Gregory Dalack, MD

Polly Gipson, PhD

Rick Solomon, MD

Events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday **4**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Mindo Chocolates & The USDA Cocoa Genome Project
Mindo showcases their organic chocolate (tastes included!) and talks about the special project • PITTSFIELD BRANCH • GRADE 6 - ADULT

Friday **6**
1:00 - 8:30 pm
Arcade Master • Qualifying Round Open Play until **7 PM**, then it's on to the **Final Round**! Play some of the finest videogames of the '80s! Final Round players get a chance to win an iPad2 w/ iCade mini arcade cabinet. LIVE Chiptunes music starts at 6 PM! • ALL AGES

Sunday **8**
1:00 - 3:00 pm
ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI READS • **Comic Artists Forum** • Artist **Rob Stenzinger** *(via Skype)* demonstrates how to communicate ideas through comic storytelling • DT 4TH FL. MEETING ROOM • GRADE 6 - ADULT

Monday **9**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
UMS Night School: Explore RENEGADE – Session 1: *Einstein On The Beach* & Hamburg Symphony Orchestra • Get an introduction to two upcoming UMS events by a genre expert

Wednesday **11**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI READS • **How To Achieve Student Success**
Get some learning strategies for students with language-based learning disabilities, including dyslexia • GRADE 6 - ADULT

Thursday **12**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
PANEL DISCUSSION • **City of Ann Arbor Community Sustainability Discussion: Resource Management** • Local stakeholders discuss sustainability concepts and efforts – past, present, and future

Saturday **14**
3:30 - 5:00 pm
Being Blind In Michigan • Learn how **Terri Wilcox**, who is blind, uses alternative skills in her daily life and work as the Secretary of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan

Sunday **15**
2:00 - 3:30 pm
ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI READS • **Film** • ***Brainman: The Boy with the Incredible Brain*** • Gain insight into the mind of renowned genius Daniel Tammet, author of ***Born On A Blue Day***, the book selected as the focus of Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2012

Tuesday **17**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
How to Make Your Home More Energy Efficient • Doug Selby (Meadowlark Builders) gives practical tips on home energy efficiency

Wednesday **18**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
MLK DAY EVENT • FILM • ***Black and Blue: The Story of Gerald Ford, Willis Ward & the 1934 Michigan-Georgia Tech Football Game*** with a discussion led by the director and the screenwriter

Thursday **19**
7:00 - 9:00 pm
(DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM)
ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI READS • **10th Annual AA/Ypsi Reads Event** • **DAROLD TREFFERT, MD**, a world expert in Autistic Savant Syndrome, presents *(via Skype)* **Extraordinary Savant Syndrome** • **JULIE A. DONNELLY, PHD**, Autism Consultant, presents **A Mother's Story: The Account of Jean-Paul Bovee**, her son who experiences autism • WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 4800 E. HURON RIVER DR.

Tuesday **24**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
BRIGHT NIGHTS™ COMMUNITY FORUM • **Mood, Food & Attitude: Metabolic Syndrome In Depression • Dr. Gregory Dalack**, Chair, UM Dept. of Psychiatry, and **Dr. Amy Kilbourne** discuss metabolic syndrome and lead a panel discussion of medical experts

Wednesday **25**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Strategies for Managing Screen Time with **Polly Gipson, PhD**, a psychologist with the UM Center for the Child and the Family

Sunday **29**
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Preschool EXPO • Representatives from area preschools at one location, on one date! • PALMER COMMONS, 100 WASHTENAW AVE.

Tuesday **31**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI READS • **Rick Solomon, MD, Discusses Autism: The Brain-Mind Connection**, including updates on recent scientific evidence related to Autistic Spectrum Disorders

For more information, call 327.4200 or visit our website at *aadl.org*

"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thurs.–Sun. (except Dec. 25), Nov. 10–Jan. 1.* Tim Rhoze directs Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby's exuberant 1978 Tony-winning musical revue (with cabaret seating) of songs by early jazz composer-pianist Fats Waller. A mixed cast of men and women sings, dances, and banters its way through such well-known tunes as "Yo' Feet's Too Big," "Honeysuckle Rose," and the title song in a show that captures the flavor of 1930s Harlem. Stars James Bowen, Diviin Huff, Kron Moore, Darrian Ford, and K Edmonds. *2 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. $27 & $29 (Thurs.), $32 & $34 (Fri. & Sun.), $25 & $27 (Sat. matinee), $39 & $41 (Sat. eve.). $3 discount for seniors age 60 & over. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. $10 student discount in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

2 MONDAY

★Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Daily except Jan. 1.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination, except Saturday mornings, which feature a 22-mile ride at various paces along the Border-to-Border Trail to the Sidetrack in Ypsilanti for breakfast. On weekdays, riders can also start at 11 a.m. from the gazebo in downtown Dexter. *Note*: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone, and snacks. *10 a.m. (daily) & 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun. only), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 545–0541 (morning ride), 994–5908 (afternoon ride).*

★"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Mon.* Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Play days are also offered at the Malletts Creek (Tues. 10–11 a.m., & Thurs. 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Wed. 11 a.m.–noon), and Traverwood (Fri. 10:30–11 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available ($2.50), 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. *12:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

ACBL Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Sun., Mon., Wed., & Thurs. except Jan. 1.* All seniors age 55 & over invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. *12:45–4 p.m. (Mon.), noon–3 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), & 1:15 p.m. (Sun.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $7 (members, $6). 794–6250.*

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun.–Fri., except Jan. 1.* All invited to compete in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using standard constructed (Sun. & Thurs.), extended (Mon.), Elder Dragon Highlander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.), and booster draft (Fri.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards (except Fri.). *6 p.m. (Mon.–Fri.) & 1 p.m. (Sun.), Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. $5 (Tues., free; Fri., $15 includes cards). 786–3746.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Mon.* A wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, with live music. All dances taught. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $5. 395–7782, 769–1052, 426–0241.*

★Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Tim Tikker. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($35 annual dues for those who join). 274–9463.*

3 TUESDAY

★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Tues. & Wed.* Stories and songs for kids ages 2–5 (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered at the Traverwood (Tues. 11–11:30 a.m., Wed. 6–6:30 p.m., & Thurs. 10–10:30 a.m.), Malletts Creek (Wed. 10–10:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs. 7–7:30 p.m. & Fri. 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 11–11:30 a.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues.* All seniors age 50 & over invited to play this popular word game. *10 a.m.–noon, Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. *Every Tues.* Activities begin at 11 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($4), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar, and at 1 p.m. **mah-jongg, bridge** and other **card games, board games, Wii sports,** and **quilting** and other **craft projects.** Also, at 1:30 p.m., **Yiddish Tish,** a Yiddish conversation group.

Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971–0990.*

The Appleseed Collective: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Popular young local acoustic quartet that plays an enchanting blend of lyric-based folk rock with Dixieland and gypsy jazz rhythms and harmonies. *1 & 3 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $10 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

★**"Make Your Own Board Game": Ann Arbor District Library.** Preschoolers through 5th graders invited to devise and construct their own board game. *2–3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Evening Winter Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tues & Thurs.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 15–20 miles, along the Border-to-Border Trail or lightly traveled Whitmore Lake Rd. *6:30 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. Preregistration required by joining groups.google.com/group/aabts-winter-evening-rides and emailing aabts-evening-winter-rides@googlegroups.com before 5 p.m. 276–0240.*

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** *Every Tues.* All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues.* Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. *7 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). $7 (students, $4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665–7704.*

★**Common Thread Knitters Club.** *Jan. 3 & 17.* All knitters invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Writers Group.** *Every Tues.* All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 665–8194.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *Jan. 3 & 17. Jan. 3:* U-M mechanical engineering research scientists George Lavoie and David Reuss present an illustrated talk on **"High Speed Industrial Photography in Engine Research."** Also, club members show their recent digital images on various topics, including this month's assignment, **"Roads/Paths."** *Jan. 17:* Members show their recent prints. *7:30 p.m., Wines Elementary School auditorium (Jan. 3), 1701 Newport, & Forsythe Middle School media center (Jan. 17), 1655 Newport. Free. 327–4781.*

★**"The Role of Star Knowledge in Spiritual Practice": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** Talk by Anthroposophical Society of America member Mary Stewart Adams, an esoteric astrologer and lecturer who lives in Petoskey. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 623–1966.*

4 WEDNESDAY

★**Calvin College Lecture Series: U-M Center for Faith and Scholarship.** *Every Mon.–Fri., Jan. 4–24.* Live video transmissions from Calvin College of lectures by experts in their fields. Today: MIT psychology professor Sherry Turkle discusses her noted recent book ***Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other.*** For full schedule, see calvin.edu/january/2012/. *12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m., Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Ct. Free. 668–7421.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** *Every Wed.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

Ron Lloyd the Bubble Man: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Jan. 4 & 5.* This popular storyteller and educator from Northfield Township presents an interactive family-oriented program. *1 & 3 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $10 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scra' blers.** *Every Wed.* All invited to play this popular word game. Bring a set if you have one. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084.*

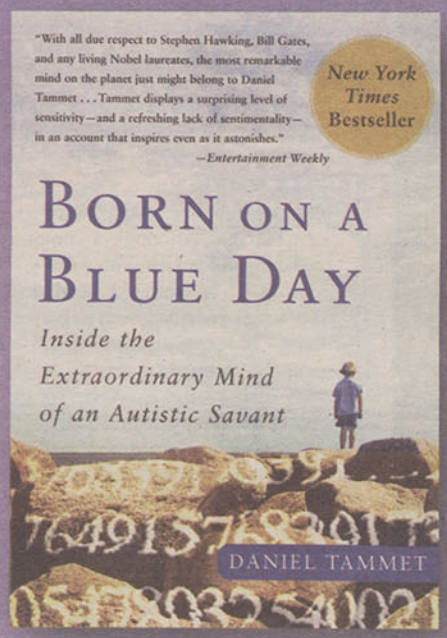
Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline west of Maple. (Park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) $6 per person. 623–8050.*

★**"Mindo Chocolates & the USDA Cocoa Genome Project": Ann Arbor District Library.** Mindo Chocolate Makers (Dexter) co-owner Barbara

ANN ARBOR / YPSILANTI READS 2012

ONE BOOK many conversations

10TH ANNUAL READS EVENT


"With all due respect to Stephen Hawking, Bill Gates, and any living Nobel laureates, the most remarkable mind on the planet just might belong to Daniel Tammet . . . Tammet displays a surprising level of sensitivity—and a refreshing lack of sentimentality—in an account that inspires even as it astonishes."
—Entertainment Weekly
New York Times Bestseller
BORN ON A BLUE DAY
Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant
DANIEL TAMMET

Thursday, January 19
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Doors will open at 6 PM.
Community organizations will be available with resources and information on Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Washtenaw Community College
Morris Lawrence Building
4800 E. Huron River Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Born on a Blue Day is now available at the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti District Libraries and at local bookstores.

WORLD-RENOWNED EXPERT ON AUTISTIC SAVANT SYNDROME

DR. DAROLD TREFFERT, MD *(via Skype)*

DISCUSSES **Extraordinary Savant Syndrome**

Psychiatrist Darold Treffert, MD, will discuss savant syndrome, highlighting recent research developments in this remarkable condition. He has appeared in many television and documentary programs, including *60 Minutes*, *Oprah*, CNN, and The Discovery Channel, and was a consultant to the Oscar-winning film, *Rain Man*. Dr. Treffert wrote the Foreword to the UK version of Daniel Tammet's ***Born On A Blue Day***, and Daniel wrote the Foreword to Dr. Treffert's recent book, ***Islands of Genius***. *(Photo: Daniel Tammet, left, with Dr. Treffert)*

DR. JULIE A. DONNELLY, PhD

DISCUSSES **A Mother's Story: The Account of Jean-Paul Bovee**

Dr. Donnelly is the Assoc. Director of the Missouri state autism agency for the Dept. of Education. Her son, Jean-Paul Bovee, was diagnosed as autistic at the age of three. Despite difficult school years, he graduated from high school, finished college, and earned two master's degrees. Jean-Paul is a Librarian, Information Specialist and a Disability Rights activist. He is married and has a son. Dr. Donnelly is a consultant on autism.

In 2012, the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads program encourages readers of all ages to explore the theme, **Language: How We Communicate.**

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Ellen Rowe

The art of the quartet

Jazz is now ubiquitous in universities, but it has not always been. For the first half of its history, jazz and academia were divided by race, lifestyle, and conceptual frameworks. The acceptance of improvised music in music schools has not always been an easy process, necessitating accommodation on all sides. Some musicians have been inspired by teaching and the relative comfort of a steady university gig, while others have stagnated. But there is a new generation of jazz musician/teachers who grew up in academia rather than in the world of nightclubs and dance halls. U-M music professor Ellen Rowe, a pianist, composer, arranger, and bandleader. with a degree from the Eastman School of Music, belongs to this group.

As soon as Rowe joined the U-M faculty, she found her way into the local performance scene. Although a committed member of the university, with a full teaching and administrative load, she needed to perform as often as possible, both to perfect her craft and to show her students what life in jazz is all about. Sometimes this means traveling to other places—to New York, for example, to play with the all-woman big band Diva—or writing commissioned pieces for other bands. But above all, she plays wherever and whenever she can in Ann Arbor and its vicinity. For many years she was a regular in our jazz clubs; as these disappeared, she has had to find other venues, and she can often be heard as a leader or sidewoman in restaurants and bars, including, most recently, Vinology and the Ravens Club. She has also found a regular home at the Kerrytown Concert House, where she has presented a long-running series on the Art of the Trio, which combines two of the many aspects of her life: playing piano and academic lecturing. Each concert focuses on a classic jazz figure or style, with Rowe providing an easygoing yet serious set of explanations with demonstrations by her trio and guests.

This month Rowe returns to the Concert House with a different project: her quartet. The change in instrumentation is small—the addition of saxophonist and clarinetist Andrew Bishop—but conceptually the disparity between the trio and quartet is significant. While her lecture/performance series is dedicated to the music of others, the quartet is primarily a vehicle for her own compositions.

Rowe's music is harmonically and rhythmically modern, with a lyrical grace that permeates, without undue sentimentality, the compositions and improvisations through which she explores the challenges of scoring for a simple quartet, sometimes adding the voice of a trumpet. Those who only know her other work will discover another, quite distinctive, aspect of Rowe's musical personality. She brings the quartet, with guest trumpeter Paul Finkbeiner, to the Kerrytown Concert House on January 4.

—Piotr Michalowski

Wilson discusses her company's involvement with this USDA effort to determine which beans make the best chocolate. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss Ian Hamilton's ***Keepers of the Flame: Literary Estates and the Rise of Biography.*** *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

The Ellen Rowe Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. *See review, p. 52.* U-M jazz piano professor Rowe leads her quartet in standards and originals. With guest trumpeter Paul Finkbeiner, saxophonist Andrew Bishop, bassist Kurt Krahnke, and drummer Pete Siers. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wed.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

5 THURSDAY

Social Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thurs.* All seniors age 50 & over invited to play this intricate game played with colorful tiles. *10 a.m.–noon, Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

"Politics, Policies: Issues That Divide Us": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. *Every Thurs., Jan. 5–Feb. 9.* A series of 6 weekly lectures by different U-M and guest scholars. *Jan. 5:* U-M psychology professor Christopher Peterson discusses **"The Psychology of Humor: Three Perspectives."** *Jan. 12:* U-M English professor emeritus Ralph Williams on **"Laughter on the Edge of the Abyss: Humor in Shakespeare's Tragedies."** *Jan. 19:* U-M communication professor Susan Douglas on **"Radio and Linguistic Slapstick During the Great Depression."** *Jan. 26:* Global Health Services Network clinical consultant Christeen Conlin Holdwick on **"S/he Who Laughs Lasts: Humor in the Healing Process."** *Feb. 2:* U-M Dearborn political science professor emeritus Bernard Klein on **"Humor in Politics."** *Feb. 9:* Award-wining cartoonist Dave Coverly, whose work has appeared everywhere from *Parade* magazine to *The New Yorker,* on **"A Cartoonist's Life; Or, How Hard Can It Be to Think of One Idea a Day?"** *10–11:30 a.m., Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $50 (members, $30) for the 6-lecture series. Memberships are $20 a year. Preregistration required. 998–9351.*

★Older Adults Thursday: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. **Current Events** discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch ($3) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program. *Jan. 5:* Don Devine and David Owens, who perform as **The Happiness Boys,** present a new version of their popular show inspired by the act of the famous vaudeville duo Billy Jones and Ernest Hare. *Jan. 12:* Beth Israel Congregation **rabbi Robert Dobrusin** leads a discussion of a topic TBA. *Jan. 19:* U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies visiting fellow Sammy Smooha, a University of Haifa sociology professor, discusses **"Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State."** *Jan. 26:* St. Joseph Mercy Hospital injury prevention coordinator Joyce Kessler discusses **"Home Safety."** *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"The Jew in the Lotus": Temple Beth Emeth Spirituality Book Club.** *Jan. 5 & 10.* TBE cantor Annie Rose leads a discussion of Jewish poet Rodger Kamenetz' book about his experience as one of several American Jews invited by the Dalai Lama to Dharamsala to discuss how to preserve faith and practice in exile. *Noon–1:30 p.m. (Jan. 5) & 7:30–9 p.m. (Jan. 10), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. 665–4744.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *Every Thurs.* Performances and demos by area and guest artists. *Jan. 5:* **"Snowflake Making"** with Thomas Clark, aka Dr. Snowflake. *Jan. 12:* **"MLK Tribute Concert"** by Robert & Bernice Jones. *Jan. 19:* **Classical music** by the EMU Mu Phi Epsilon fraternity. *Jan. 26:* Juggling and acrobatics by the **Detroit Flyhouse Circus School.** *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**Ann Arbor District Library.** *Jan. 5–8.* Video game tournaments and open play. *Jan. 5 (3–8:30 p.m.):* **"Rhythm Masters Open Play."** For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *Jan. 6:* **"Arcade Masters."** Qualifying (1–7 p.m.) and final (7–8:30 p.m.) rounds of an all-ages tournament featuring 80s arcade games. Prizes. *Jan. 7 (1–4 p.m.):* **"National Smash 5 Tournament."** For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *Jan. 8 (1–5 p.m.):* **"PokeMania!"** Pokemon tournament for all ages. Bring your own Nintendo DS game console and a pre–2010 Pokemon video game (no black or white) with Pokemon under 30 for qualifying rounds. 1–5 p.m. *Various times, AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Rush Hour Relief": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. *Every Thurs.* Whole Foods staffers discuss wine. Tastings with cheese and appetizers. Topics: **"Syrah, Shiraz, and Petite Sirah"** (Jan. 5), **Tuscan red wines** (Jan. 12), **Loire Valley wines** (Jan. 19), and **Malbec** (Jan. 26). Also, Michigan beer tastings (price varies) at 5 p.m. on Jan. 6 & 20. *5–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods wine bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. $17. 997–7500.*

★**Christian Campbell: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** Poetry reading by this Caribbean writer, a University of Toronto English professor. Pulitzer Prize–winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa calls Campbell's acclaimed 2010 collection, *Running the Dusk*, "the gutsy work of a long-distance runner who possesses the wit and endurance, the staying power of authentic genius." *5:10 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615–3710.*

★**Comhaltas.** *Every Thurs.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. *6:30–9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. 474–1569.*

Euchre Night: Out Loud Chorus Fundraiser. All invited to compete in a euchre tournament. No partner necessary; cash prizes for overall winner and loser. *7 p.m., CUBS' AC in Colonial Lanes, 1950 South Industrial. $10. 973–6084, 663–0036.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thurs.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sun. & Thurs. except Jan. 1.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.) & 1–6 p.m. (Sun.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

★**"Collecting in the Mojave Desert": Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** A club member TBA gives a slide-illustrated presentation. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.*

"(un)Corked: Adventure Argentina!": The Produce Station. Jorge Lopez Chavez and Eric Lundy lead tastings of 5 Argentinean wines, including Malbecs, Torrontes, and others. Also, cheese and appetizers. *Note:* This event always sells out. *7:30–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. $10 in advance at producestation.com/wine. 663–7848.*

Ann Arbor Ski Club. *Jan. 5 & 19.* All invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Followed by activities TBA. Must be 21 or older. *7:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 786–2237.*

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dances to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. *7:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 (students, free). 971–0990.*

"Broken Circles Hunger Project": Kerrytown Concert House/Springfed Arts. Poetry readings by **Keith Taylor, Joy Gaines-Friedler, Jeff Kass, Neu-**

THE HOUSE ON
Diamond Hill

Events at the **Institute for the Humanities**
University of Michigan Winter 2012

All events are **free** and **open to the public**

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humin@umich.edu

Photo: *The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story* by Tiya Miles

In the Gallery

Exhibitions and gallery receptions are held in the Institute for the Humanities gallery, 202 S. Thayer, except where noted. Gallery hours are M-F, 9am-5pm, Sat 11am-3pm.

Jan. 3 – 14 — *Loops.* 3D digital projection created by **Paul Kaiser,** the 2011 Kidder Resident in the Arts, and the **OpenEnded Group** based on their collaboration with **Merce Cunningham**

Jan. 3 – 10 — "plant." premiere of new work exploring the abandoned Packard plant in Detroit. Created by **Paul Kaiser** and the **OpenEnded Group.** Exhibition is located in the Duderstadt Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd. Gallery hours: M-F noon-6pm

Feb 15 – Mar 28 — *Joints Array.* Video installation by **Charles Atlas** exploring time-based portraiture, the body, fragmentation, and movement.

Feb 15 — Gallery reception for *Joints Array* and **Charles Atlas**, 5:30pm-7pm

April 5 – May 31 — *Newspaper Diary.* "Momentary collages" contrasting the historical weight and relative durability of books with fleeting news images carefully propped up on the book's open pages. By **Joanne Leonard.**

April 5 — Gallery reception for *Newspaper Diary* and **Joanne Leonard,** 5:30pm–7pm

Lectures, Films, & Seminars

Jan 11 — Marc and Constance Jacobson Lecture: **Peter Galison,** Harvard University, "Einstein, Clocks, and the Materiality of Time," 5pm, Rackham Amphitheater, 915 E. Washington

Feb 13 — UMS RENEGADE on Film. *The Legend of Leigh Bowery,* a 2002 film by **Charles Atlas** (with director Q&A), 7pm, U-M Museum of Art Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State Street

March 22 — Jill S. Harris Memorial Lecture: **Robert Mankoff,** cartoon editor at the *New Yorker,* "If You Can't Say Something Nice then Draw It: the Role of Stereotyping in New Yorker Cartoons," 5pm, location TBA

May 4 & 5 — Annual Spring Seminar

Author's Forum

Author's Forum events are held in the Hatcher Graduate Library, library gallery, room #100, at 5:30pm.

Jan 18 — *The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story.* A Conversation with **Tiya Miles** and **Kristin Hass**

Feb 15 — *Freedom Papers: An Atlantic Odyssey in the Age of Emancipation.* A Conversation with **Rebecca Scott** and **Jean Hebrard**

Mar 21 — *Fires in the Mind.* A Conversation with **Kathleen Cushman** and **Shari Saunders.**

April 4 — *Breaking and Entering.* A Conversation with **Eileen Pollack** and **JoEllen Vinyard**

April 9 — *Green-Eyed Thieves.* A Conversation with **Imraan Coovadia** and **Daniel Herwitz**

Brown Bag Lectures

Brown Bag lectures are held on Tuesdays at 202 S. Thayer, room #2022, at 12:30pm. Brown Bags are recorded and viewable on our website.

Jan 10 — **Stephen Rush,** music
"History of Post-Modern Opera"

Jan 17 — **Uwem Akpan,**
Featuring our Fellows
"Say You're One of Them"

Jan 31 — **Tobin Siebers,** English and art & design,
Featuring our Fellows
"The Mad Women Project: Disability and the Aesthetics of Human Disqualification"

Feb 7 — **Keith Mitnick,**
architecture,*Featuring our Fellows*
"Rainy Sea Architecture"

Feb 14 — **Charles Atlas,** video artist,
Featuring the Digital Humanities
"Joints Array"

Feb 21 — **Basil Dufallo,** classical studiesand comparative literature,
Featuring our Fellows
"Ancient Roman Ecphrasis: Overturning Theoretical Assumptions"

Mar 6 — **Megan Ankerson,** communication,
Featuring the Digital Humanities
"Dot-com Design: Reflections on Coolness, Usability, and the Versioning of Web History"

Mar 13 — **Amanda Krugliak,** performance artist & curator
"Monologue Marking Time"

Mar 20 — **Mark Clague,** music

Mar 27 — **Alan Itkin,** comparative literature,
Featuring our Fellows
"Ultimate Pictures: Word and Image in the Works of Peter Weiss"

Apr 3 — **William Bolcom,** music
"Maverick American Music"

Apr 10 — **Imraan Coovadia,** University of Capetown,*Visiting Fellow*
"Nabokov's Lolita and Other Butterflies"

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Small Worlds

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Lori Nix (born 1969), *Library* (detail).
Chromogenic print, 2007.© Lori Nix

Winter-Spring, 2012
First Baptist Concert Series
Ad Libitum

O Jesu Dulcis
Divine Music Celebrating the Son of God
January 20 (Friday) at 7:30PM, 2012
Performed by Sfogati
Lorna Hildebrandt, Coloratura Soprano
Kiri Tollaksen, Cornetto
Shin-Ae Chun, Harpsichord and Organ
Music by Monteverdi, Cozzolani, Praetorius, Schein, Schütz and others.

As Music Flows
Celebrating Bach and Corelli
March 25 (Sunday) at 4PM, 2012
Katharina Uhde, Violin
Shin-Ae Chun, Harpsichord
Music by J.S. Bach and Arcangelo Corelli

All in One, One in All
Featuring First Baptist Musicians
April 29 (Sunday) at 4PM, 2012
Variety of Inspiring Vocal and Instrumental Music

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at music@fbca2.org

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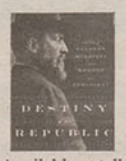

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Thursday, January 19
7:30 p.m.

Candice Millard talks about her 2011 New York Times best seller, hailed as "a first rate history, political intrigue, and a true-crime story all rolled into one, capturing the zeitgeist of America during the 1880s, when President Garfield was assassinated."

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tral Zone students, and other local poets. Proceeds benefit Food Gatherers, a local food donation organization. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Canned or boxed food donation for entry; cash donations accepted. 769–2999.*

Warren B. Hall: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan 5–7.* Young African American comic from Boston known for his often self-deprecating observational humor about the oddities of ordinary human behavior. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $8 (Thurs.) & $11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

6 FRIDAY

★Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center. *Every Mon. & Fri. beginning Jan. 6.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *1–3 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 332–7964.*

"Super Hero Night": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation "Funky Frosty Friday." All invited to dress as a favorite superhero and skate under mirrored balls to music designed to pump you up. *7:15–8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 761–7240.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Lake Superior State. *Jan. 6 & 7. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $19–$25. 764–0247.*

Warren B. Hall: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Swing Dance Party: Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Fri.* Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, blues, and Balboa dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. *9 p.m.–midnight, The Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main. $5 (includes lessons; students with ID, $3). 417–9857.*

7 SATURDAY

Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Presented by one of the park naturalists, Jennifer Hollenbeck or Raejean Uehline. *Jan. 7: (8 a.m.):* **"Bird Hike."** Bring binoculars and a field guide. *Jan. 21 (11 a.m.):* **"Animal Tracks & Trails."** A hike to learn how to look for signs of animals in winter. *Jan. 28 (11 a.m.–2 p.m.):* **"Chillin' at the Mills."** A variety of winter activities, including (weather permitting) cross-country skiing, Klondike racing and dog sledding demos, and more. Afterward, an indoor craft activity and hot chocolate. $2 ($6 includes lunch). *Various times, Hudson Mills activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $3 unless otherwise noted. Preregistration required. $5 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *Jan. 7 & 8.* About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. (517) 605–0624.*

★"After the Super-Committee's Failure, What New Threats Face Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid?": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Talk by Gray Panthers of Detroit co-convener and National Gray Panthers issues chair Randy Block. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. *9:45 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

★Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway. *Jan. 7 & 21.* One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m.–midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. $16 to race. (313) 565–2815.*

★Children's Storytime: Nicola's Books. *Every Sat.* An experienced storyteller spins yarns for kids age 7 & under. *11 a.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. *Every Sat.* Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★"Life: How Do We Find It?": U-M Exhibit Museum. *Every Sat. & Sun., Jan. 7–15.* Hands-on 20-minute demo about the aims and procedures of astrobiology. *11 a.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.),*

U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.

U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium. *Every Sat. & Sun. (except Jan. 1) and Jan. 16.* Four different audiovisual planetarium shows. ***The Sky Tonight*** (11:30 a.m. Sat. & Jan. 16; 1:30 p.m. Sat., Sun., & Jan. 16; and 3:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun.) is an exploration of the current night sky. ***Cosmic Colors*** (12:30 p.m. Sat.) is a journey across the entire electromagnetic spectrum that explores the reasons for color, the nature of X-rays, and more. ***Natural Selection: Darwin's Mystery of Mysteries*** (2:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun.) explores the centerpiece of Darwin's theory of evolution. ***The Little Star That Could*** (12:30 p.m. Jan. 16) is about an average yellow star on a search for a planet of its own to warm who meets other stars on the way and learns about the solar system. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $5. 764–0478.*

★**"Mochitsuki": U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** All invited to make and taste *mochi,* a traditional New Year's sweet sticky rice cake. Also, live music by *koto* (Japanese zither) ensemble **Miyabi** and *taiko* (Japanese drum) ensemble **Raion Taiko,** manga drawing, origami and kakizome (calligraphy), kamishibai (storytelling), and Japanese games. *1–4 p.m., U-M East Hall Math Atrium, 530 Church St. Free. 764–6307.*

★**"Spanish Storytimes": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Sat.* Native Spanish speakers tell stories and lead songs in Spanish for preschoolers through 5th graders. *1–1:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

"Professor Ray's Everyday Science": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Jan. 7 & 8.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. "Frigid Freeze" offers cold experiments involving dry ice, liquid nitrogen, and insta-snow. *1 & 3 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $10 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Sat.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. *2–4 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761–1115.*

★**Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** *Jan. 7 & 21.* All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook,* Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection,* and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. *3–6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 994–9307.*

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a **kids drum circle** ($10) hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. *4–5 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Ohio State. The U-M also has games this month against **Minnesota** (Jan. 15, noon), **Indiana** (Jan. 22, 2 p.m.), and **Penn State** (Jan. 26, 7 p.m.). *5 p.m., Crisler Arena. $7 & $8 (age 55 & older, $5), $1; U-M students, faculty, & staff with ID, free). 764–0247.*

"2013: Muerta Goes to Space Prison": Dreamland Theater. *Every Sat.* The Dreamland puppet troupe presents Chris Sandon's futuristic puppet-and-video show about a daytime TV host named Muerta Spewart who has difficulties broadcasting her Holy Day Special from a prison cell in outer space. The program begins with the puppet show ***Deus ex Machina.*** For mature audiences. *7 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $10. 657–2337.*

"Drum 4 Wellness Circle": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a drum circle. Bring a drum or use one provided. *7:30–9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $5 suggested donation. 480–1219.*

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. With live music. All dances taught; no partner needed. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10 (members, $9; students, $5). 769–1052.*

★**Lise: METAL Design & Fabrication Studio.** Performance by this versatile young French singer-songwriter, composer and pianist who lives part-time in Ypsilanti. Her repertoire ranges from gorgeous ballads to playful hip-hop covers. With 2 local opening acts TBA. *8 p.m., METAL, 220 Felch. Donation. (800) 613–6385.*

Warren B. Hall: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. *Jan. 7 & 21.* High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main (above Elmo's). $5. (313) 808–0358.*

8 SUNDAY

★**"My Three Favorite Beliefs": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** Talk by U-M humanities professor emeritus Ralph Loomis. *10 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 669–9187.*

★**"Winter Hike, Potluck, and Vacation Sharing!": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation.** A short hike followed by food around the fireplace and slide shows of nature vacations, including Isle Royale, the Kansas Flint Hills, and more. Bring a dish to pass and, if you wish, 15–20 slides from your favorite nature vacation. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Beach Center, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★**Mature Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sun. except Jan. 1.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. *Jan. 8, 15, & 29:* Kalamazoo College religion professor Waldemar Schmeichel presents a series of talks on **"The Origins and Nature of Islam."** *Jan. 22:* **potluck and planning meeting.** *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Monteith Hall, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

Contact Improv. *Every Sun. except Jan. 1.* All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It lies somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. *1–3 p.m., Phoenix Center, 200 S. Main (above Elmo's). $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

★**Comic Artists Forum: Ann Arbor District Library.** Comics artist **Rob Stenzinger,** creator of the online music fantasy adventure *Art Geek Zoo,* shows (via Skype) how to make and publish a serial comic. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. Drawing supplies provided. *1–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Art as Experience": UMMA.** *Every Sun. beginning Jan. 8.* Docent-led tour, with audience participation, of highlights of UMMA collections. *1 p.m. UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763–UMMA.*

Deep Fried Pickle Project: The Ark. Family concert by bluegrass-based Americana band from Kalamazoo that plays family-friendly tunes. *1 p.m., the Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**MLK Unity March: Second Baptist Church.** All invited to join a march from the Washtenaw County Courthouse to the Second Baptist Church on Red Oak. Refreshments. Shuttle available back downtown from the church. *2 p.m., meet at the courthouse, Main at Huron. Free. 663–9369.*

Square Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. With caller Marlin Whitaker and live music by the Stout Hearted String Band. *2–5 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $8 (members, $7; students, $4; kids under 14 with parent, free). 665–7704.*

"Three Dinners": Preserving Traditions. Cooking demo featuring 3 nutritionally balanced meals, made from mostly local ingredients, that can be prepared in less than 30 minutes. *2–4:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $5 (Grange members, free). Preregistration required by emailing preservetrad@gmail.com. 997–8844.*

★**"Roses of the World": Huron Valley Rose Society.** Screening of a video. Followed by a Q&A. Refreshments. *2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 277–0112.*

★**"Face of Our Time": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of this exhibit of photos by 5 photographers who explore the sometimes volatile civil and political transformations facing contemporary society. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**"Kerry Tales: A New Year for Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** Half-hour family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769–3115.*

★**Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., the Ark, 316 S. Main.*

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including natural areas, waste reduction, recycling, compost, urban forestry, water and air quality.

FEBRUARY 9, 2012
LAND USE AND ACCESS
including transportation designs, infrastructure, land uses, built environment, and public spaces.

MARCH 8, 2012
CLIMATE AND ENERGY
including an overview of Ann Arbor's climate action plan, climate impacts, renewable and alternative energy, energy efficiency and conservation.

APRIL 12, 2012
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Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678–7549, 761–1451.

★**Pokemon League: Get Your Game On.** *Every Sun. except Jan. 1.* All invited to play this popular card game and trade cards with other players. *3 p.m., Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. Free. 786–3746.*

★**Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss 2 novels that revolve around children. John Hart's ***The Last Child*** is about a teenage boy who believes his missing twin sister is still alive. Carol O'Connell's ***The Judas Child*** is about 2 fifth-grade girls who are kidnapped. *3:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

Sunday Matinee Puppet Show: Dreamland Theater. *Every Sun. except Jan. 1.* The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents all-ages puppet shows by local writers featuring a variety of puppets created by local artists, including marionettes and shadow puppets. The stories often contain humorously intended social commentary that, like contemporary children's cartoons, some may consider inappropriate. *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5 (kids age 3 & under, free). 657–2337.*

★**"Mashiko Village Pottery": Yourist Studio Gallery.** Screening of a 1937 B&W documentary about Shoji Hamada, the renowned Japanese ceramist who revitalized pottery making in the Japanese village of Mashiko, where ceramic art had flourished in ancient times. *4 p.m., Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

"An Evening of Music from Magical Beaver Island": Kerrytown Concert House. Soprano **Martha Guth,** violinist **Albert Wang,** bassist **Ricardo Lugo,** and pianist **Kenneth Bos**—all internationally recognized musicians and performers at the Baroque on Beaver Festival—present a concert to benefit the festival, a week of classical music concerts on Lake Michigan's Beaver Island. Program: Bach's Sonata in A, along with Leonard Bernstein's "A Quiet Place," Francis Poulenc's "Les Chemins de l'amour," Richard Strauss's "Ständchen" and "Morgen," Tosti's "Ultima Canzone," Gershwin's "Embraceable You," and other songs. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"The Collaborators": University Musical Society National Theatre Live. Tape-delayed live broadcast of the National Theatre (London) production of this new play by *Trainspotting* screenwriter John Hodge, a macabre comedy that imagines what might have happened had the Russian playwright Mikhail Bulgakov been burdened with an unwelcome commission to write a play about Stalin to celebrate his 60th birthday. The action, directed by Nicholas Hytner, is a surreal journey into Bulgakov's fevered imagination as he loses himself in a disturbingly funny relationship with the omnipotent subject of his drama. With Simon Russell Beale and Alex Jennings. *4 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $22 (Michigan Theater & UMS members, $18; students, $12) in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★**"Dream Boy": Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of Jim Grimsley's coming-of-age novel about a high school sophomore from a dysfunctional family and his romantic relationship with a senior baseball player. *4:30–7 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center (formerly WRAP), 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4168.*

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. *Every Sun. except Jan. 1.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom (Jan. 8 & 29), Michigan League Ballroom (Jan. 15 & 22). $5. 763–6984.*

9 MONDAY

★**ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Mon., Wed., & Fri. beginning Jan. 9.* All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch (Mon.), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.; 7–8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch (Wed.), 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy; & 1–2:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch (Fri.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Writing Group: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** *Every Mon. except Jan. 2.* All seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. *1:30–2:30 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Knowing and Valuing Both Private and Public: What Role for Public Policy, Design, and Planning in the 21st Century?": U-M Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning.** Lecture by U-M TCAUP chair Richard Norton. *6 p.m.,*

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. *Wit, Wisdumb and Worry* (Jan. 6–Feb. 5). Contemporary prints and installations by Randy Bolton, Michael Krueger, and Tom Reed—artists whose work has been described as folksy, humorous, satirical, and witty. Reception Jan. 13, 6–8 p.m. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5:30 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. *Curriculum of Color: Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor Student Art Exhibit* (Jan. 18–Feb. 28). Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m. 327–4555.

Concordia University Kreft Center for the Arts, 4090 Geddes. *Faculty Exhibit* (Jan. 17–Feb. 19). New works in various media by Concordia faculty and Concordia University Wisconsin faculty. Reception Jan. 20, 7–9 p.m. Tues.–Fri. noon–4 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 1–5 p.m. 995–7389.

Gallery 55+, 2401 Plymouth Rd. *Mixed Media Works by Marcia MacMullen and Photographs by Joan Kelley* (through Jan. 31). Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 998–9353.

Jewish Community Center Amster Gallery, 2935 Birch Hollow. *Photos by Elena Weissman* (Jan. 5–Feb. 29). Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.–6 p.m. 971–0990.

Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main. *Christmas Past to Present* (through Jan. 8). Sat. & Sun. noon–4 p.m. and by appointment. 662–9092.

River Gallery, 120 N. Main, Chelsea. *The Richard Wilt Legacy: 1915–1981* (Jan. 21–Feb. 25). Tues.–Fri. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. noon–4 p.m. 433–0826.

U-M Hatcher Graduate Library, Room 100 (enter from the Diag). In the Audubon Room: *Sacred Hands* (Jan. 13–Mar. 4). Judaic, Christian, and Islamic manuscripts. Mon.–Fri. 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 1–7 p.m. 936–2311.

U-M Institute for the Humanities Gallery, 202 S. Thayer St. *Loops* (through Jan. 28). 3–D digital projections by Paul Kaiser. *Packard in 3D* (through Jan. 13). Works that explore the abandoned Packard Plant in Detroit. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. 936–3518.

U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 434 S. State. *Karanis Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt* (Jan. 27–May 6). Reception Jan. 27, 6 p.m. Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 1–4 p.m. 763–3559.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. *Pineapples & Pincushions: The Art & Science of Patterns in Nature* (Jan. 1–8). Mon., Tues., & Thurs.–Sun. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m.–8 p.m. 647–7808.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. *Robert Wilson: Video 50* (Jan. 7–Apr. 29). A set of 30-second video "episodes" that prominent mid-1970s experimental theater director Wilson thought of as miniature portraits or character studies. Some feature notable French personalities of the time. Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 763–UMMA.

U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art & Design), 2000 Bonisteel. *8th Annual A&D Faculty Exhibition* (Jan. 13–Feb. 10). Paintings, prints, ceramics, installation, and performance and kinetic works. Reception Jan. 13, 6–9 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 936–2082.

U-M Work (U-M School of Art & Design), 306 S. State. *Standing Heat* (Jan. 13–Feb. 10). Works that map the evolving relationship between animals and humans. Reception Jan. 13, 6–9 p.m. Tues.–Sun. noon–7 p.m. 998–6178.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *New Work by Francesc Burgos* (Jan. 3–Feb. 12). Reception Jan. 6, 7–10 p.m. Tues.–Thurs. noon–6 p.m., Fri. & Sat. noon–9 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 761–2287.

Note: All exhibits are free, unless otherwise noted.

U-M Architecture Bldg. Auditorium, 2000 Bonisteel. Free. 764–1300.

★**"The Evolving Felter": Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild.** Talk by **Loretta Oliver,** an award-winning Michigan felt artist and nationally known felt teacher. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 665–0703.*

★**Food Talks: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market.** *Jan. 9, 10, & 19.* Talks by local health practitioners. *Jan. 9:* Chiropractor Amanda Childress on **"Weight Loss."** *Jan. 10:* Doula Dawn Bussey on **"The Benefits of a Birth Coach."** *Jan. 19:* Chiropractor Darren Schmidt on **"How to Burn Fat Fast."** *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 975–4500.*

★**"Custer at Appomattox": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table.** Talk by Appomattox Court House National Battlefield Park ranger and historian Patrick Schroeder. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from Huron River Dr.). Free. (517) 750–2741.*

★**"University Musical Society Night School": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Jan. 9 & 23.* U-M musicology professor Mark Clague leads a discussion about the upcoming UMS presentations of Philip Glass and Robert Wilson's ***Einstein on the Beach*** (see 20 Friday) and the **Hamburg Symphony Orchestra** (see 29 Sunday). *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4255, 764–2538.*

★**"What Treasures I Found at the Ann Arbor Stamp Show": Ann Arbor Stamp Club.** All invited to join club members for a group discussion of goodies found at last November's stamp show. Also, a stamp auction and APS circuit books. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761–5859.*

★**"No Kidding! Me 2!!": National Alliance on Mental Illness of Washtenaw County.** Showing of actor Joe Pantoliano's documentary about his own struggle with clinical depression, along with the stories of 6 other people affected by assorted mental illnesses. *7:30–9 p.m., King of Kings Lutheran Church, 2685 Packard. Free. 994–6611.*

★**Ladies of the Book Book Club: Jewish Community Center.** All invited to discuss ***Syd Arthur,*** Ellen Frankel's novel about a middle-aged suburban Jewish woman who embarks on a spiritual journey in search of enlightenment. *8 p.m., JCC gym, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Randall Hawes: U-M School of Music.** This DSO bass trombonist is accompanied by his longtime recital partner, U-M piano professor **Kathryn Goodson,** in "Arch and Architecture," a program of works by James Stephenson, Leonard Bernstein, and Daniel Schnyder, along with the world premiere of a multimovement work by U-M grad student composer David Biedenbender. With appearances by soprano **Caroline Helton** and saxophonist **Donald Sinta.** *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

10 TUESDAY

★**"Thyme for the Love of Bees": Good Thyme Garden Club.** Talk by **Richard Mendel,** a local master gardener, certified organic gardener, and expert beekeeper. *10 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 944–9131.*

★**Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Institute for the Humanities.** *Jan. 10, 17, & 31.* Bring a bag lunch. *Jan. 10:* U-M music professor Stephen Rush on **"The History of Postmodern Opera."** *Jan. 17:* U-M Institute for the Humanities fellow Uwem Akpan, a Nigerian-born Jesuit priest, on his acclaimed collection of 5 stories set in war-torn Africa, ***Say You're One of Them.*** *Jan. 31:* U-M comparative literature professor Tobin Siebers on "The Mad Women Project: Disability and the Aesthetics of Human Disqualification." *12:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 2022. Free. 936–3518.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***El Ruido de las Cosas al Caer,*** Juan Gabriel Vásquez's novel about a young lawyer who obsessively reconstructs the life of a murdered pilot. *6:45 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–0600.*

"An Evening in Sicily": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young is joined by Italian artisanal food exporter and tour guide **Gioacchino Passalacqua,** a native Sicilian, to present a dinner showcasing traditional Sicilian dishes. *7–10 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Rd. $45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

"Raptor Watching": Leslie Science & Nature Center. LSNC staff discuss places to look for raptors in winter, from the Ann Arbor area to the UP, and what to look for when you get there. *7–8 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $5 (family, $20) in advance, $7 (family, $28) at the door. 997–1553.*

★**"So You Want to Be a Beekeeper!": Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers.** The first in a series of talks aimed at novice beekeepers and those interested in learning more about honeybees. *7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 660–8621.*

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & over invited to discuss ***The Master and Margarita,***

UPCOMING **KREFT ARTS** EVENTS

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

Faculty Exhibit "New Work" *
January 17 – February 19
Opening Reception:
Friday, January 20, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Kreft Center Gallery

Kreft Juried Exhibit "Mirror Images: Reflections on/of the Arts" *
March 6 – April 4
Opening Reception:
Friday, March 23, 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Kreft Center Gallery

BOOKS & COFFEE

Black Wealth/White Wealth *
Discussion led by Prof. Omari Jackson
Tuesday, January 31, 4:00 p.m.
Earhart Manor Living Room

* *Denotes free events.*

READINGS & LECTURES

Adam Schuitema
Short story writer & novelist *
Thursday, February 9, 7:30 p.m.
Riverside Rooms

THEATRE

Johnny Pye and the Fool-Killer, A Musical
February 16, 17, 18, 8:00 p.m.
Kreft Center Black Box Theater
Tickets: $10 ($5 students & seniors)

MUSIC

Fifth House Ensemble of Chicago
Black Violet: Classical music, vivid art, imagery, and riveting narrative
Friday, March 9, 8:00 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Trinity
Tickets: $10 ($5 students & seniors)

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For full details on these & other events, scan the QR code or go to **www.cuaa.edu/kreftarts**

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A screening of the documentary to raise public awareness of bipolar disorder and to benefit the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund at the University of Michigan Depression Center

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Sunday, March 11, 2012 • 7 pm

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Students & Seniors $7* / Adults $12*

To purchase tickets, visit: PrechterFund.org/BoyInterrupted

*Price includes a $1.50 ticketweb.com service fee. Tickets will be sold for $10 and $15 at the box office the day of the event.

For sponsorship opportunities or information, please contact:
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January 3 - March 10, 2012

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Thursdays 6:15 pm - 7:05 pm

Saturdays 9:15 am - 10:05 am
Saturdays 10:15 am - 11:05 am

Registration began Nov. 28
Sorry, no phone registrations
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Friday, Jan 13 1:15 pm
National Send-off
AAFSC Ice Dancers

Wed, Jan 18 6:05-6:35 pm
Synchro Sectional Send-off

Sunday, Jan 29 2:15-4:05 pm
National Skating Club Event

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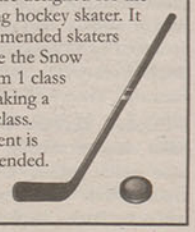
These classes will be held on **Tuesdays 6:15 pm - 7:05 pm.** Classes are designed for the beginning hockey skater. It is recommended skaters complete the Snow Plow Sam 1 class before taking a hockey class. Equipment is recommended.



Mikhail Bulgakov's satirical novel that weaves together several stories set in Soviet Moscow. *7–9 p.m., 3184 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

★Food Lectures: People's Food Co-op. *Jan. 10 & 26.* Talks by local experts. *Jan. 10:* Raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston on **"The Whole Truth about Whole Grains."** *Jan. 26:* Holistic health practitioner Linda Diane Feldt on **"The Myth of Fasting: Using Herbs for Nourishment, Not Punishment."** *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required at the co-op, by emailing outreach@peoplesfood.coop, or by phone. 994–4589.*

★"Language of Mudra": U-M Theme Semester on Language. Nationally acclaimed Ann Arbor–based classical Indian dancer **Sreyashi Dey** is joined by dancers Ishika Rajan, Kritika Rajan, and Debnita Talapatra for a performance of the Odissi style of classical Indian dance, which emphasizes subtle, fluidly sculpted movements through S-shaped body positions. The program highlights the creative process, with some explanations of the complex and stylized gestures found in classical Indian dance. *7–8 p.m., U-M Residential College Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0032.*

★Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss ***The Windward Shore: A Winter on the Great Lakes,*** Michigan writer Jerry Dennis's self-described "mosaic" of winter life in Great Lakes country that ranges from thoughts on the nature of time, books, and words for snow and ice to our complex relationship with nature. *7:15 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

★"Photography on Skis": Washtenaw Ski Touring Club. Talk by club member and professional photographer Ed Rosch. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing. The program begins with a business meeting. *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–SKIS.*

11 WEDNESDAY

★Noon Lectures: U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies. *Jan. 11 & 18.* Bring a bag lunch, if you like. *Jan. 11:* U-M Armenian studies postdoctoral fellow Arsene Saparov discusses **"Arbitrary Borders? The Logic of Bolshevik Boundary-Making in the South Caucasus, 1921–25."** *Jan. 18:* SMU law professor Jeffrey Kahn on **"New Revelations on the Second Conviction of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev."** *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★"Group Drumming: Music for the Health of It": U-M Turner Senior Resource Center. All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Dianne Baker for drumming and singing. Drums provided. *1:30–2:30 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

"Kids Club: Cookie Decorating": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. All kids ages 3–12, accompanied by a parent, invited to decorate cookies. Light refreshments. *4 p.m., Whole Foods, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. $5. Reservations required. 997–7500.*

★"Feeling for History: Non-Linear Time Structures in Contemporary Korean Cinema": U-M Center for Korean Studies. Talk by U-M screen arts and cultures professor Dan Herbert. *4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–1825.*

★"Einstein, Clocks, and the Materiality of Time": U-M Institute for the Humanities Marc & Constance Jacobson Lecture. Lecture by Harvard University history of science and physics professor Peter Galison. *5 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 936–3518.*

"Faust": Quality 16. *Jan. 11 & 12.* Reprise of a December live broadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera** production of Gounod's classic opera based on the Faust legend. Tony-winning director Des McAnuff's production updates the story to the 1st half of the 20th century. Stars Jonas Kaufmann, Rene Pape, and Marina Poplavskaya. *6:30 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets $18 (kids age 12 & under & students, $13.50) in advance at gqti.com/met.aspx and at the door. 623–7469.*

★"Seed Cleaning and Exchange": Wild Ones. All invited to bring seeds to clean and exchange. Also, a chance to use the U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens' seed cleaning equipment and learn about their new way of handling seeds. Seeds available to take home. *6:45–8:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 604–4674.*

★"Strategies for Academic Success": Ann Arbor District Library/U-M Institute for Human Adjustment. U-M speech-language pathologist Karen Wasco discusses ways middle and high school students with language-based learning disabilities can improve the way they approach assignments and prepare for tests. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4255, 615–7853.*

★Fiction Book Club: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of ***Mrs. Dalloway,*** Virginia Woolf's landmark novel about a woman reflecting on her life as she prepares for a party she is hosting. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. *Jan. 11 & 25.* All invited to read their poetry or short stories. Also, a 1-hour writing workshop after the open mike on Jan. 25. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. Club member Jane Gelman leads a discussion of ***Appetite for Change: How the Counterculture Took on the Food Industry,*** Warren Belasco's book about the major changes in American eating in the wake of the 1960s health food craze. *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

★"Divorce & Blended Families": Allen Creek Preschool Thoughtful Parenting Series. Lecture by local psychoanalyst Ivan Sherick. *8–9 p.m., Allen Creek Preschool, 2350 Miller. Free. 994–3382.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor. *Every Wed. beginning Jan. 11.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by intermediate (7 p.m.) and beginning (8 p.m.) swing lessons. *9–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. $5 (students, $4). 945–8428.*

12 THURSDAY

"Faust": Quality 16. See 11 Wednesday. 1 p.m.

★"Conversations on Europe": U-M Center for European Studies. *Jan. 12 & 19. Jan. 12:* Free University Berlin sociology professor Jens Alber discusses **"The European Social Model: What the EU Could Learn from the U.S."** *Jan 19:* European University Institute (Florence, Italy) political and social sciences visiting scholar Igor Guardiancich on **"Pension Policy in Central and East Europe: Reforms and Reversals."** *4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

★Sarah Gambito: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series. Poetry reading by this award-winning New York–based Filipina poet whose work revolves around ethnicity, immigration, nationality, and pop culture. Her poetry is often described as fiery, feisty, and playful. She is cofounder of Kundiman, a nonprofit organization that helps Asian American poets. *5:10 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615–3710.*

★"Opera in America: Stories, People, Places": U-M School of Music. Lecture by Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan president John Zaretti. *7 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Porters and Browns": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen porters and brown beers from around the world. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance, $30 at the door. 213–1393.*

★"Resource Management": Ann Arbor District Library. Panel discussion on past, present, and future local sustainability concepts and efforts with U-M urban and regional planning chair Richard Norton, Huron River Watershed Council executive director Laura Rubin, and several city officials: natural area preservation manager Dave Borneman, environmental commission chair Chris Graham, urban forestry and natural resources planner Kerry Gray, solid waste coordinator Tom McMurtrie, and environmental coordinator Matthew Naud. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Jan. 12–Feb. 19.* David Magidson directs the Michigan premiere of Christopher Hampton's 2009 Tony-winning translation of French playwright Yasmina Reza's dark comedy of manners about 2 couples who meet at one of their homes to discuss a playground altercation between their young children. Hostility rumbles just under the surface, as their civilized battle of wits devolves into a hilariously childish chaos. (Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniels earned a Tony nomination for his role in the original Broadway production.) Stars Joey Albright, Sarab Kamoo, Phil Powers, and Suzi Regan. *7:30 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: whatever you can afford to pay (Jan. 12), $22 (Jan. 13, 15, & 19), and $30 (Jan. 14). Jan. 20 opening night tickets: $39 & $41 includes reception. After Jan. 20: $27 & $29*

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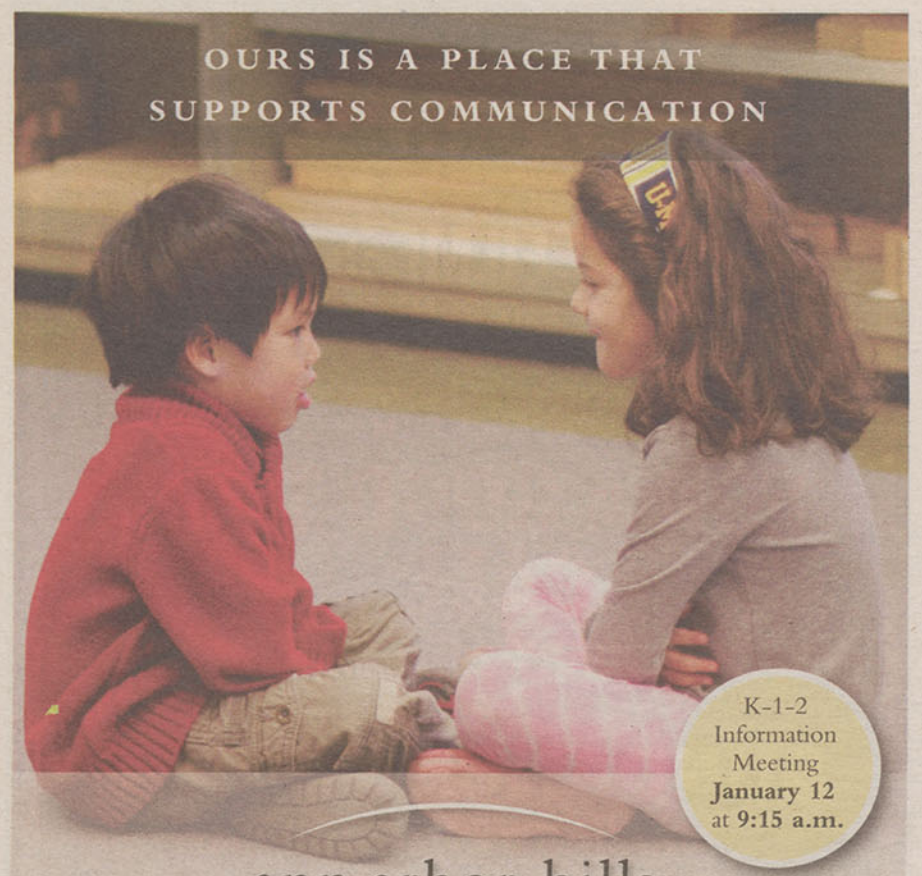

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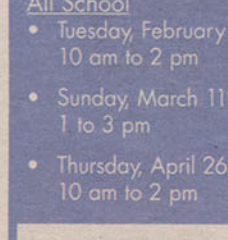
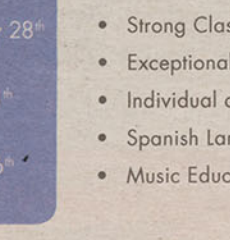
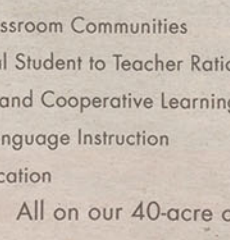
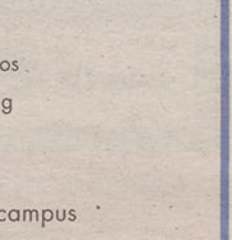

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(Thurs.), $32 & $34 (Fri. & Sun.), $25 & $27 (Sat. matinee), $39 & $41 (Sat. eve.). $3 discount for seniors age 60 & over. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. $10 student discount in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.

★Aaron Berofsky & Edward Parmentier: U-M School of Music. Violinist Berofsky and harpsichordist Parmentier, both U-M music professors, perform the Italian Baroque composer-violinist Arcangelo Corelli's Violin Sonatas Nos. 1–6. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Ahmed Ahmed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan 12–14.* Ann Arbor debut of this Egyptian American actor and stand-up comic, a member of the Axis of Evil Comedy Tour who won the 2004 Edinburgh Festival's 1st annual Richard Pryor Award for ethnic comedy. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

13 FRIDAY

"Snowflake Science": Leslie Science and Nature Center "Tiny Tot Time." All kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited to experiment and play with snow and ice. Also, discussion of how animals stay warm in winter, along with (weather permitting) some sledding fun. Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *10–11:30 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $7 per child. 997–1533.*

★"Lunchtime Tour": UMMA. *Jan. 13 & 27.* Student docents give a 30-minute tour of the art museum. *12:15–12:45 p.m., meet at the UMMA information desk, 525 S. State. Free. 764–UMMA.*

★Ice Dancing Exhibition: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. Performance by ice dancers who will be competing in the U.S. National Championships in San Jose later in the month. *1:15 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 213–6768.*

★"Language Revitalization, Civil Rights, and Modern Times": U-M Theme Semester on Language. Talk by University of California linguistics professor emerita Leanne Hinton. *4–5:30 p.m., U-M Clements Library, 909 South University. Free. 764–2347.*

★"The Transition from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age in the Western Black Sea Area": U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies. Talk by New Bulgarian University (Sofia) archaeology professor Bogdan Athanassov. *5–6:30 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 343 S. State. Free. 764–0351.*

"Vegan Winter Recipes": Washtenaw Whole Foods Market. Demo by local chef and MATCH vegan meats representative Jenney Gordon. *6–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. $10. Preregistration required. 975–4500.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Ohio State. The U-M squad also has a quad match this month against **Illinois** (Jan. 27, 6 p.m.). *6 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

"FutureStars 2011": Pioneer High School. *Jan. 13, 14, & 21 (different programs).* AAPS high school students perform 4 different talent shows. The audience response determines the winners in each of the 4 categories, who compete in the Jan. 21 finale. This is a very popular show. Tonight: **"Best of FutureStars."** The 9:30 p.m. shows are open only to students. *7 & 9:30 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Tickets (available at the door only) $7 on Jan. 13 & 14, $15 (students, seniors age 65 & over, & teachers, $10) on Jan. 21. 994–2191.*

★Older Lesbians Organizing. All lesbians invited to join a discussion of **dreams.** *7:30 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct. Free. 995–9867.*

★Vusi Mahlasela: U-M Center for World Performance Studies/UMMA. This acclaimed South African vocalist, known as "The Voice" for his mastery of a multi-octave range, plays a vibrantly joyous hybrid of African folk, world music, blues, and soul, and his songs address both South Africa's apartheid-scarred past and the promise of its future. *7:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free, but tickets required and available in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office. 763–8587.*

★Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. *Jan. 13 & 27.* All invited to join an ongoing discussion of Rudolf Steiner's *An Outline of Occult Science.* Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes (Nov. 18). Free. 944–4903.*

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. *Jan. 13 & 27.* All invited peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. *8–10 p.m., 5th-floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left). Free. 764–3440.*

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. With caller Dan Blim and music by Childgrove. For experienced English country dancers. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

Cornell & U-M Men's Glee Clubs: First United Methodist Church. Program TBA. *8 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. Freewill offering. 662–4536, ext. 0.*

Michael on Fire: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Michael on Fire is the stage name of Michael Colone, a veteran southern California singer-songwriter who grew up in Detroit. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $12 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Ahmed Ahmed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

14 SATURDAY

★Eco-Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. *Jan. 14 & 21.* All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Jan. 14), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Jan. 21), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. Registration requested. 647–8528.*

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science and Nature Center. A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11 a.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $7. 997–1553.*

★"Magnets": Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department. All invited to make a decorative bookmark or refrigerator magnet using colorful used postage stamps. Also, guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. *10 a.m.–noon, Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 794–6000.*

★"How *You* Work": Ann Arbor District Library. U-M Museum of Natural History staff explore cells and DNA and explain how they work to make us. For kids in grades K–5. *10–11 a.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. & 2–3 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. Local early childhood educator Gari Stein, director of Music for Little Folks, presents a program of music and movement for infants through 5-year-olds. *11–11:40 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Storytime at the Museum": UMMA. *Jan. 14 & 28.* U-M student docents read stories related to the art on display. For kids ages 4–7 accompanied by a parent. *11 a.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★"Stories for All Ages": Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Sat. beginning Jan. 14.* AADL staff read stories for listeners of all ages. *10–10:30 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

Family Fun: Oz's Music Environment. *Jan. 14, 21, & 28.* Families invited to get onstage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $15 per family. 662–8283.*

★"Being Blind in Michigan": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by National Federation of the Blind of Michigan secretary Terri Wilcox. *3:30–5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

Ann Arbor Young Contra Dancers: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Live music by Stout Hearted String Band. For students and people in their 20s & 30s. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. *5–8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $9 (members, $8; students, $5). (248) 417–7968.*

28th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Dinner Ball: National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women. Dinner followed by dancing to live music by a band TBA. Evening attire. Proceeds benefit a NANBPW scholarship fund and community service projects. *6–11 p.m., Four Points Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk. Tickets $50 in advance only at aanabpwc@gmail.com. 769–7773.*

Team USA Under-18 vs. Des Moines. The older of the 2 Ann Arbor–based USA Hockey national development teams plays this U.S. Hockey League rival. Team USA Under-17 has matches this month against **Muskegon** (Jan. 27) and **Dubuque** (Jan. 28).

bluegrass

Mountain Heart

Turbograss

Mountain Heart came on the scene with its unique bluegrass sound in the late 1990s, and that sound has endured intact through a series of personnel changes. Despite the band's considerable success, nobody else has been able to imitate it.

Bluegrass is a quiet, often subtle, music as a rule, but Mountain Heart is all about power. The six members of the group make a big noise, and when they do a long traditional jam like "Lee Highway Blues," they can turbocharge it like nobody else in the business. But most of their music isn't traditional. Alone among progressive bands, they are most influenced by the sound of mainstream commercial country and Southern rock. Many of their concerts even include an extended version of the Allman Brothers' "Whipping Post," sung and performed on piano by multi-instrumentalist Josh Shilling.

That makes them something of an odd fit for the Ark, downtown's venerable folk club, where the bluegrass tends to run toward the deep Monroe-based music of the Del McCoury Band and, more recently, the jam band influence that started with the Grateful Dead. But fit they do. Mountain Heart has come to town during the slow phases of early January for the last several years and has just about sold out the Ark every time. The synergy between band and audience is obvious to anyone in attendance, and the rafters ring.

Something is happening in addition to the band's virtuoso abilities, Shilling's full-throated vocals, and even beyond the remarkable abilities of banjoist and founder Barry Abernathy, who was born with only a thumb and an index finger stub on his left hand. That something involves the intersection of music, technology, and space. Bluegrass bands rarely record live albums, because at the low-tech venues where they tend to appear they're lucky to get even adequate sound. But a Mountain Heart show is different: it's a sophisticated audio enterprise, involving such devices as in-ear monitors, that takes time and expertise to set up. The band recorded its live album, *Road That Never Ends,* at the Ark in 2007, and you get the feeling that they do their best work at the club because they know the show is being done right.

Mountain Heart returns to the Ark on Friday, January 13 (See Nightspots).

—James M. Manheim

7 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $6 (seniors, students, & children, $4; kids under 5, free). 327–9251.

"Ragtime Burlesque": River Raisin Ragtime Revue. This Tecumseh-based ragtime orchestra is joined by Hollywood burlesque performer **Lily LaRue,** local jazz dance quartet **The Ragdolls,** and local vocalist **Sean Ike** for an old-fashioned burlesque show featuring such ragtime and early jazz numbers as "Ballin' the Jack," "New Orleans Bump," and Louis Armstrong's "West End Blues." Dinner. Cash bar. *7 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson. $60 (includes dinner). Reservations required. ragtimeband.org, (517) 423–1962.*

"FutureStars 2011": Pioneer High School. See 13 Friday. Tonight: **"On Broadway NOW!"** 7 & 9:30 p.m.

"2013: Muerta Goes to Space Prison": Dreamland Theater. See 7 Saturday. 7 p.m.

"Bernhardt on Broadway: The Musical." Local writer and composer **Carol Dunitz** performs her one-woman musical about Sarah Bernhardt, the French silent film actress who revolutionized the place of women in theater and was once considered the most famous actress in the world. Bernhardt once played *Hamlet* at Stratford-on-Avon and pioneered the way for the Lady Gagas and Madonnas of the world by posing nude for renowned photographer Felix Nadar and building a star persona around endorsements for everything from cigarettes to Vaseline. Partial proceeds benefit 6 local nonprofits: Omni Solutions, Girls Group, the Neutral Zone, Steps for Kids, the Ypsilanti Area Dancers, and the Ypsilanti Community Choir. *2 & 7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $25 in advance at Mast Shoes (Westgate shopping center) or any of the nonprofits listed above (each group receives a portion of the proceeds raised from its ticket sales). 864–3244.*

2nd Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Don Theyken calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), $10 (students, $5). 408–1829.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Singles and couples invited. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $5. 822–2120.*

Annual Collage Concert: U-M School of Music. An hour of nonstop music in a wide range of contrasting styles. Classical, jazz, big band, vocal, and pop ensembles and soloists segue rapidly from one idiom to the next. Performers are U-M music students. One of the music school's most popular events. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $20 & $26 (students with ID, $10), in advance at the Michigan League Ticket Office, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

Sam Clark & Friends: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. All invited to join an ensemble led by local singer-guitarist Clark for **"A Night of Spirit Singing"** sing-along. With Kath Roos, Aron Kaufman, Lori Fithian, and others. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $8 ($15 for 2). 665–0409.*

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Ahmed Ahmed: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

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ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS www.a2schools.org

FILMS

Note: Most educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Ann Arbor Center of Light Conscious Movie Night. FREE. 864–2017. Center of Light, 200 Huronview (off N. Main.), 8 p.m.

Jan. 27: **"I Am"** (Tom Shadyac, 2011). Documentary of the director's interviews with several prominent philosophers, spiritual leaders, and scientists about what's wrong with the contemporary world and what can be done to remedy it.

Ann Arbor District Library. FREE. 327–4555. AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave., various times.

Jan. 15: **"Brain Man: The Boy with the Incredible Brain"** (BBC, 2005). Documentary about Daniel Tammet, the British autistic savant whose memoir *Born on a Blue Day* is the current Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads book (see 19 Thursday listing). 2–3:30 p.m.

Jan. 18: **"Black and Blue: The Story of Gerald Ford, Willis Ward, & the '34 Michigan-Georgia Tech Football Game"** (Brian Kruger, 2011). Documentary about the football game in which the U-M agreed to appease Georgia Tech by benching its best player because he was African American. 7–8:30 p.m.

Ann Arbor Docu Fest. Screening of a different documentary film every Mon. FREE. 929–9979. Café Ambrosia, 326 Maynard, 7 p.m.

Jan. 2: **"Blue Vinyl"** (Judith Helfand & Daniel Gold, 2002). Award-winning comic documentary about the toxic side effects of vinyl, the world's 2nd-largest-selling plastic.

Jan. 9: **"The Weather Underground"** (Sam Green & Bill Siegel, 2002). Documentary about the rise and fall of the late–60s/early–70s radical organization.

Jan. 16: **"Dive!"** (Jeremy Seifert, 2010). Documentary in which the director and friends dumpster dive behind several L.A. grocery stores to demonstrate the massive amount of perfectly edible food wasted each year in America.

Jan. 23: **"An Injury to One"** (Travis Wilkerson, 2002). Experimental documentary exploring the notorious 1917 lynching of Wobbly organizer Frank Little in Butte, Montana.

Jan. 30: **"POM Wonderful Presents: The Greatest Movie Ever Sold"** (Morgan Spurlock, 2011). Documentary about product placement, marketing, and advertising in TV and movies by the creator of *Super Size Me.*

Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. $5 suggested donation. 327–0270. 704 Airport Blvd., 8 p.m.

Jan. 21: **"Spiritual Cinema."** Screening of a feature film or several shorts TBA with spiritual themes. Followed by discussion.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

Jan. 27: **"Enlightenment Guaranteed"** (Doris Dörrie, 2002). Comedy about 2 German brothers searching for the meaning of their lives who visit a Buddhist monastery near Tokyo. German, subtitles. Followed by discussion.

Jewish Community Center Movie Night. Various prices. 971–0990. JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard).

Jan. 21: **"Chatunah Meucheret"** (Dover Koshashvili, 2001). A 31-year-old Israeli bachelor, harassed by his family to follow its Georgian Jewish custom and marry a young virgin, is secretly in love with a 34-year-old divorcee. Hebrew, subtitles. $12 (members, $10). Time TBA.

Jan. 22: **"The Lost Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe"** (Albert Barry, 2000). Documentary, narrated by Theodore Bikel, about the few remaining synagogues that once served the shtetls of Eastern Europe and the community life that once surrounded them. $7 (members, $5). 7 p.m.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually twice, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668–TIME. This schedule also includes some State Theater films that have been announced in advance. For an updated schedule, see michtheater.org/state. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8; MTF members, $7.50; films before 6 p.m., $7). Michigan Theater (unless otherwise noted), times TBA unless otherwise noted.

Jan. date TBA: **"Shame"** (Steve McQueen, 2011). A 30-something man's sex addiction is interrupted when his wayward younger sister moves into his NYC apartment.

Through Jan. 1 & other dates TBA: **"The Descendants"** (Alexander Payne, 2011). Comedic drama that stars George Clooney as a Hawaiian land owner who tries to reconnect with his daughters when his wife falls into a coma after a boating accident.

Dec. 23 through Jan. date TBA: **"The Artist"** (Michel Hazanavicius, 2011). Black-and-white silent film set in Hollywood in the late 1920s about a May-December romance between a declining silent film actor and a rising actress in the talkies.

Opens Jan. 6: **"Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy"** (Tomas Alfredson, 2011). Cold War thriller that stars Gary Oldman as an espionage veteran who's forced out of semi-retirement to uncover a Soviet agent at MI6.

Jan. 8: **"The Muppet Movie"** (James Frawley, 1979). Heartwarming road movie mockumentary about the way the Muppets first met is highlighted by a steamy yet discreet love scene between Kermit and Miss Piggy. Kids under 12, free. 1:30 p.m.

Opens Jan. 13: **"Carnage"** (Roman Polanski, 2011). Dark comedy based on Yasmina Reza's play about 2 couples who meet at one of their homes to discuss a playground altercation between their young children. Hostility rumbles just under the surface, as their civilized battle of wits devolves into a hilariously childish chaos. Stars Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz, and John C. Reilly. At the State Theater.

Jan. 14: **"World on a Wire"** (Rainer Werner Fassbinder, 1973). Surreal dystopian sci-fi epic about a cybernetics engineer who uncovers a massive corporate and governmental conspiracy that threatens reality as we know it. Klaus Löwitsch. German, subtitles. 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m.

Jan. 16: **"Beyond the Bricks"** (Derek Koen, 2011). Documentary, focusing on schools in Newark (NJ), exploring solutions to the problem of the consistently low performance of African American boys in the public school system. FREE. 2 p.m.

Jan. 21: **"Cinematic City: Seoul."** A series of films from South Korea. Korean, subtitles. Sponsored by the U-M Center for Korean Studies. Today: ***My Dear Enemy*** (Lee Yoon-ki, 2008). Romantic comedy about a destitute woman searching for an old lover who still owes her money. FREE. 2 p.m.

Jan. 25: **"AAFF 50th: Retrospective Series."** Toronto filmmaker and former Ann Arbor Film Festival juror **Mike Hoolboom** presents several past AAFF film selections. Tickets $10 (students, seniors, & Michigan Theater members, $7; AAFF members, $5) in advance at aafilmfest.org. 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 26: **Sundance Film Festival.** Official 2012 Sundance Festival screening and world premiere of ***USA: For a Good Time, Call...*** (Jamie Travis, 2011), a comedy about 2 down-on-their luck women who move in together and embark upon a wildly unconventional business venture. Ari Graynor, Lauren Ann Miller. $15 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, Ticketmaster.com, and all other Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call (800) 745–3000. 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 29: **"Sundance Shorts."** A collection of the best short films from the 2011 Sundance competition. $15 in advance at all Ticketmaster outlets and at the door. (800) 745–3000. 7:30 p.m.

Temple Beth Emeth "Movie Wednesday." FREE. 665–4744. 2309 Packard, 1 p.m. Followed by discussion. Snacks.

Jan. 18: **"The Life of Emile Zola"** (William Dieterle, 1937). Oscar-winning biopic about the pioneering French naturalist novelist who stood up for a Jewish army captain who was imprisoned for treason despite evidence that someone else committed the crime. Paul Muni.

U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. FREE. 764–0352. 1022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer, 3 p.m.

Jan. 22: **"Crying Ladies"** (Mark Meily, 2003). Whimsical comedy about 3 women who are professional mourners. Filipino, Mandarin, Tagalog; subtitles.

U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. U-M campus admission policy: No one under 18 admitted without an adult. FREE. umichanime.com. MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer, 10 a.m.–midnight.

Jan. date TBA: **"Animania."** Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from Japanese TV series.

U-M School of Public Health. FREE. 764–6478. SPH II Auditorium, 1415 Washington Hts., 5 p.m.

Jan. 9: **"Born into Brothels"** (Zana Briski & Ross Kauffman, 2004). Moving, Oscar-winning documentary about the children growing up in Calcutta's grim red light district.

University Musical Society. FREE. 764–2538. UMMA Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. 7 p.m.

Jan. 10: **"Absolute Wilson"** (Katharina Otto-Bernstein, 2006). Documentary about the life of avant-garde theater director and playwright Robert Wilson (see 20 Friday *Einstein on the Beach* listing).

WCBN-FM. FREE. 763–3500. Arbor Brewing Company (114 E. Washington), 8:30 p.m.

Jan. 11: **"Jailhouse Rock"** (Richard Thorpe, 1957). Musical drama starring Elvis as an ex-con turned rock star. It features charismatic renditions of several top-notch Leiber & Stoller songs and a climactic dance number choreographed by Elvis himself.

15 SUNDAY

★Choral Reading Session: American Guild of Organists. All singers invited for read-throughs of various anthems and choral works TBA. *10 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Free. info@annarborago.org.*

★"Stinchfield Woods Hike or Ski": Huron Valley Sierra Club. Local outdoorsman Barry Lonik leads a 5-mile ski or hike (depending on trail conditions) through the woods. *1 p.m., meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse (2501 Jackson Rd.) to carpool. Free. 477–5715.*

★"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4555.*

★"Comic Artists Forum": Ann Arbor District Library. Comics artists Jerzy Drozd, a contributing editor to the online comics anthology sugaryserials.com, shows adults and teens in grade 6 & up how to clean up and finish their comics using Photoshop Elements. *1–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Tropical Ladyslipper Orchids": Ann Arbor Orchid Society. Talk by Little Frog Farm (Stockbridge) owner Rob Halgren. Also, an orchid show-and-tell, orchid sales, silent auction, raffle, and a chance to grill experts about problem plants. *1:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 663–0756.*

Waterloo Natural History Association. *Jan. 15, 22, & 28. Jan. 15 (2–4 p.m.):* **"Winter Orienteering."** A hike to learn to find your way through the woods in winter. Compass provided, or bring your own. *Jan. 22 (2–3 p.m.):* **"I Love Boobies and Other Creatures of the Galapagos."** WNHA naturalist Carol Strahler discusses the unique animals of the Galapagos, how ocean currents and geology influence their ecosystem, and how islanders are coping with tourism and limited resources. *Jan. 28 (7–8:30 p.m.):* **"The Night Crew."** Leslie Science & Nature Center staff display live owls and discuss their habits. Participants also receive an owl pellet, complete with instructions for discovering indigestible parts of prey that are inside. The indoor program is followed by a walk, led by Washtenaw Audubon Society member Lathe Claflin, along Discovery Center trails to look for and call owls. Dress for the weather. *Various times, Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot (unless otherwise noted), Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (families, $5). Space limited; preregistration required. $10 annual vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All kids, accompanied by an adult, invited for contra and square dancing with live music by David West and Donna Baird. Grange-baked cookies & lemonade. *2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $12 per family. 769–1052.*

★"The Sonic Experience of Museums": U-M Museum Studies Program. U-M art and design grad student John Kannenberg and U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology curator Terry Wilfong discuss the varied roles sound can play within the museum experience and whether "museums of sound" could become commonplace and what they might contain. *2 p.m., location TBA at ummsp.lsa.umich.edu. Free. 936–6678.*

★"Mark di Suvero: Tabletops": UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of this well-known artist's sculptures made from industrial steel and salvaged materials. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763–UMMA*

★"Faces of Faith": Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County. Several local residents pose as books to tell the story of their personal spiritual journey. Participants "check out" a different "book" during each of three 20-minute sessions to learn about a different spiritual practice, religious belief, or turning point of faith. *2–4 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church social hall, 2309 Packard. Free. 424–1535.*

"Music for a New Year": Ann Arbor Concert Band. James Nissen conducts this local volunteer ensemble in Joseph Willcox Jenkins' *Symphonic Jubilee,* Phillip Rhodes' *Dramatic Essay* with trumpet soloist **Clifton Williams,** Norman Dello Joio's *Variants on a Mediaeval Tune,* Karel Husa's *Music for*

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"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 2 p.m.

Southpaw Isle: First United Methodist Church. Performance by this area Caribbean steel band whose repertoire also includes jazz, classical, samba, and calypso. *3 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. Freewill offering. 662–4536, ext. 0.*

★**Ann Arbor Classics Book Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of Emily Bronte's classic Gothic romance **Wuthering Heights.** Refreshments. *3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 971–1618.*

★**Philip Glass & Robert Wilson: U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** The legendary creators of *Einstein on the Beach* discuss the creative process behind this avant-garde opera, performed at the Power Center Jan. 20–22 (see listings). *4 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

"American Art Song": Kerrytown Concert House. Soprano **Alissa Deeter,** baritone **Robert Peavler,** and pianist **Arlene Schrut**—all nationally recognized performers—celebrate the release of their new CD featuring works by contemporary American composers Kirke Mechem, Dominic Argento, Thomas Pasatieri, and Timothy Hoekman. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★**"The History of Fishtown in Leland, Michigan": Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor.** Hillside Homestead farmhouse B&B (Suttons Bay) owner Susan Odom discusses the preserved historic fishing village in Leland. *6 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

★**"The Dream Lives On": Church of the Good Shepherd Freedom Players.** This local troupe performs excerpts from MLK's best-known speeches, including "I Have a Dream," "The Drum Major," and "The Mountaintop," along with some soul-stirring music inspired by the civil rights movement. *7 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence. Free. 971–6133.*

16 MONDAY (MLK DAY)

★**"Annual Children & Youth Program": U-M MLK Symposium.** Parents can drop off kids in grades K–12 for a day of stories, discussions, skits, musical performances, and activities centered on Martin Luther King. Pizza lunch provided. Kids age 4 & under welcome if accompanied by an adult. *8:30 a.m.–3 p.m., U-M Modern Languages Bldg., 812 E. Washington. Free. Preregistration recommended at sitemaker.umich.edu/mlk/home. 764–9470.*

★**Michele Norris: U-M MLK Symposium Keynote Memorial Speech.** Talk by this award-winning journalist, a co-host of NPR's *All Things Considered.* Norris's 2010 memoir *The Grace of Silence* focuses on her investigation of her family's racial identity and the shocking family secrets she uncovered on her journey. For the full schedule of MLK Symposium events, see mlksymposium.umich.edu. *10 a.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**"Building Stronger Communities for Better Health: The Geography of Equity and Human Rights": U-M MLK Symposium/U-M Medical School.** Talk by Joint Center Health Policy Institute (Washington, D.C.) director Brian Smedley. *11:45 a.m., U-M Hospital Towsley Center Dow Auditorium, 1510 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 764–8185, mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**"The Arab Spring: One Year In":** U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Panel discussion by U-M experts. *Noon, Rackham Amphitheatre. Free. 764–0350.*

★**MLK Day of Service: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division.** All invited to help remove invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn from the Bluffs Nature Area. Wear long pants and close-toed shoes; tools and know-how provided. Snacks. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. *1–3 p.m., meet at the Crawford Elks Lodge, 220 Sunset. Free. 996–3266.*

★**Michigan Sex Offender Registry Panel Discussion: U-M MLK Symposium/U-M Prison Creative Arts Project.** With ACLU representative Miriam Aukerman, juvenile sex offender probation officer Jessica Ashmore, survivors of sexual offenses, a U-M law professor TBA, and others. *1–3 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 647–7673, mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**"Many Voices: A Shared Dream!": U-M MLK Symposium.** Performance by Tony- and Obie-winning playwright **Sarah Jones,** whose work centers on diversity and inclusion. *1–3 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**"Fordson: Faith, Fasting, and Football": U-M MLK Symposium.** Screening of this documentary that follows a predominantly Arab American Detroit high school football team as they practice during Ramadan when Muslims traditionally fast during daylight hours. Followed by a panel discussion. *1–4 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. Free. mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**Adrian Fenty: U-M MLK Symposium.** Talk by this former Washington, D.C. mayor known for his efforts to reform the urban education system. *1:30 p.m., U-M Business School Blau Auditorium, 701 Tappan. Free. mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**"MLK Day Poetry Reading": Ann Arbor District Library.** Neutral Zone literary arts director **Jeff Kass** reads poems on civil rights, equality, peace, and justice for kids in grades 4–12. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"The Call to Sacrificial Service: MLK Day Celebration": U-M School of Music.** Jerry Blackstone directs the music student ensemble Chamber Choir in works TBA. *2 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Circle of Unity": U-M MLK Symposium.** All invited to listen to or join impromptu performances of songs and spoken word pieces about freedom. *3 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**"Brother Outsider: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin": U-M MLK Symposium.** Screening of this award-winning biography of the 1963 March on Washington organizer whose open homosexuality forced him to remain in the background of the Civil Rights Movement. Followed by discussion. *4–6 p.m., SSWB Educational Conference Room, 1080 South University. Free. mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**"A Tribute to MLK Jr.: Bringing the Dream to Life": U-M MLK Symposium.** Performances by U-M students and local artists TBA. *4–7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**Nonfiction Book Club: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Paddy's Lament, Ireland 1846–1847: Prelude to Hatred,*** Thomas Gallagher's account of the Irish potato famine. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**New Millennium Poetry at Sweetwaters.** Reading by Detroit poet **Aricka Foreman,** a Midwest Regional Slam champ and poetry editor of *Muzzle Magazine.* The program begins with open mike readings. *7–8:30 p.m.; Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 994–6663.*

★**Daria Kim: Ann Arbor Women Artists.** This local ceramicist, who teaches at the Ann Arbor Art Center and WCC, discusses her work. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 996–2551.*

★**"Belle Isle—Then and Now": Michigan Botanical Club.** Michigan Natural Features Inventory botanist Suzan Campbell gives a slide-illustrated talk about this island park in the Detroit River. *7:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free. (810) 923–5860.*

"The 'It Gets Better' Project": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M musical theater students present a program of pop and musical theater songs. Proceeds benefit "It Gets Better," a project encouraging LBGT youth to make it through their teen years. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. 4th Ave. $20 (students, $10; U-M musical theater students $5; kids age 17 & under, free); donations accepted. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

17 TUESDAY

★**"The Magic Room: A Story about the Love We Wish for Our Daughters": Nicola's Books.** *Wall Street Journal* columnist **Jeffrey Zaslow** discusses his new book about a family-owned bridal shop in Fowler, MI. Signing. *6 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★**"How to Make Your Home More Energy Efficient": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Meadowlark Builders president Doug Selby. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

"A Conversation with Philip Glass": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. This celebrated composer discusses ***Einstein on the Beach,*** the renowned 1976 avant-garde opera he created with Robert Wilson that comes to the Power Center on Jan. 20 (see listing). *7–9 p.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). $15–$30 sliding scale based on ability to pay. Preregistration available via registration@jewelheart.org. 994–3387.*

Eileen Pollack

At home with the militia

NINA HAUSER

Eileen Pollack, former director of the U-M creative writing MFA program, has never been afraid of taking on big themes and big subjects. Among her former students—including several who have gone on to enjoy large international reputations—she is famous for always suggesting, if not insisting, that their stories and novels be about something. She uses her own fiction to wrestle with uncomfortable political and social issues.

In *Breaking and Entering,* her recently released novel, she has done it again, but this time the subject is closer to home. Pollack's protagonist, Louise Shapiro, and her husband and child have moved from the Bay Area to rural southwestern Michigan. Louise is more than a little smug, self-righteous, paranoid, and desperately lonely. She has reason to be lonely: her therapist husband, Richard, has withdrawn from her, forcing his family to move after a client he was infatuated with killed herself. He has taken a job as a therapist in the local Michigan prison, and the job is clearly the most useful thing he has ever done, even as it alienates him even further from his wife.

As the old joke says, even paranoids have enemies. The novel takes place over the spring and summer of 1995; very early on, the characters learn about the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City and, soon after, about Timothy McVeigh. Some of Louise's neighbors are members of the Michigan Militia, and their meeting ground is the Sportsman's Gun Club down the road, where, on his way south to Oklahoma City, McVeigh may or may not have stopped for a beer. The janitor at the school where Louise works part-time as a social worker hosts a radio show where he shouts racist and anti-Semitic rants. "Mike from Michigan" is his radio moniker, and none of us who've been around here for a while have to stretch very far to find *that* model. Louise's Jewish husband is fascinated with the gun culture espoused by his militia neighbors, using that interest as yet another way to withdraw from his wife.

Louise takes up with the local Unitarian minister, and their affair becomes the center of her life, moving from passion into the realm of obsession. It is clearly doomed from the start, and the unraveling of it all—the inevitable failure of the love affair and the cultural and physical assaults on Louise herself—becomes the center of this novel. As the title indicates, Louise breaks—or is broken—but whether she is ever able to enter is the uncertainty and profound sadness that Pollack leaves with us.

Eileen Pollack reads from *Breaking and Entering* at Nicola's Books on Wednesday, January 18.

—Keith Taylor

★**Craig Brenner: Ann Arbor District Library.** Traditional blues, jazz, and boogie-woogie by this veteran Bloomington (IN) pianist whose music *Living Blues* praised as "fine and funky." *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Public Policy and You": American Association of University Women.** Talk by Michigan AAUW public policy director Barbara Bonsignore. Preceded at 7 p.m. by light refreshments. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. aauwaa.org, 973–6287.*

★**"The Great Lakes Compact: Are There Holes in the Bucket?": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Talk by *Great Lakes Echo* writer Gary Wilson. *7:30–9 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 665–0248.*

The Moth Storyslam: Michigan Radio. Monthly open mike storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Each month 10 storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3–5 minute story on the monthly theme. January theme TBA at arborweb.com. The 3 judges are recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a Grand Slam in the spring. *7:30–9 p.m. (sign-up begins at 6 p.m.), The Circus, 210 S. First. $5. 764–5118.*

18 WEDNESDAY

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & over invited to join Liz Gleich to discuss a book TBA at a2gov.org/senior. *12:30–1:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

★**"The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story": U-M Author's Forum Series.** U-M American culture professors Kristin Hass and Tiya Alicia Miles discuss Miles' award-winning historical study of the most famous plantation in the southeastern Cherokee Nation. Signing. *5:30–7 p.m., 100 U-M Hatcher Library, enter from the Diag. Free. 615–5783.*

★**"School After School: A Feasible Solution to the Achievement Gap?": U-M MLK Symposium/ National Society of Black Engineers.** Panel discussion about the feasibility of extracurricular academic programs in Detroit. *6–7:30 p.m., 4448 East Hall, 530 Church St. Free. nsbe.eboard@umich.edu, mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**"The Business of Einstein on the Beach": University Musical Society/U-M Arts Enterprise.** Talk by producer Linda Brumbach and associate producers Alisa Regas and Kaleb Kilkenny about the remount of this legendary opera (see 20 Friday listing). *6 p.m., U-M School of Business Wyly Hall, Room W2740, 724 E. University. Free. 764–2538.*

★**Hockettes: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.** Performance by the AAFSC synchronized skating team that will be competing at the Midwestern Sectional Championships at the end of the month. *6:05–6:35, Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 213–6768.*

★**"We Still Live Here": U-M Theme Semester on Language.** Screening of this award-winning documentary about the historic Wampanoag nation of southeastern Massachusetts that, in the 1990s, revived their language after many generations with no native speakers. *7 p.m., U-M North Quad Language Resource Center, 105 S. State. Free. 647–0759.*

★**"Breaking and Entering": Nicola's Books.** *See review, p. 65.* U-M creative writing professor **Eileen Pollack** discusses her new novel, set against the backdrop of the Oklahoma City bombing, about a Christian-Jewish couple who move with their daughter from California to rural Michigan in an attempt to save their marriage. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"Plovers, Parrots, and Primates of Uganda and Rwanda": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** Slide-illustrated talk by Journeys International co-owner Will Weber. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677–3275.*

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★**Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of Sophie D. Coe and Michael D. Coe's ***The True History of Chocolate.*** *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

David Abbott and Lia Jensen-Abbott: Kerrytown Concert House. Joint recital by this husband-and-wife duo of Albion College piano professors, both internationally recognized performers. Program includes Mendelssohn-Hensel's "The Year," Liszt's *Two Legends,* and Schumann's Arabesque in C major, *Papillons,* and Fantasie in C major. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★**Vincent Chandler Septet: UMMA Jazz Series.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Chandler, a member of the Roy Hargrove Big Band. *8 p.m., UMMA Forum, 525 S. State. Free. 763–UMMA.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

19 THURSDAY

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** Jan. 19 & 26. Talks by visiting scholars and experts. *Jan. 19:* Detroit-based Japanese Consul General Kuninori Matsuda on **"Japan-U.S. Economic Relations."** *Jan. 26:* Heidelberg University art history professor Melanie Trede on **"Picturing Hachiman: Using the Past to Serve the Present."** *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 763–4301.*

★**International Neighbors.** All area women invited to join Martha Bhatia to learn and try out some dance steps in the Bhangra style, a lively Indian dance form derived from a Punjabi harvest dance. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 995–1645.*

★**"Traveling by Train": U-M Map Library.** Display of historical railroad and subway maps, timetables, guidebooks, and travel brochures. *4–7 p.m., U-M Hatcher Library (2nd floor), U-M Diag. Free. 764–0410.*

★**Joanna Scott: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** Fiction reading by this University of Rochester (NY) English professor, an award-winning novelist known for beautifully rendered, scrupulously detailed historical novels that feature brilliantly subtle explorations of her characters' interior lives. Her 1997 book *The Manikin* was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. *5:10 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615–3710.*

★**Tony Fry: U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Talk by this Queensland (Australia) College of Art design professor, a design theorist, philosopher, and farmer whose work explores sustainability, design, and politics. *5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

★**Annual Meeting: Washtenaw County Conservation District.** The Henry Ford collections manager Jim McCabe gives a talk on **"Henry Ford and Agriculture."** Also, awards for best conservation farming and best tree conservation. The program begins with a buffet dinner ($10; kids age 12 & under, $5). *6:30 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Free (preregistration required by Jan. 13.) 761–6721, ext. 5.*

★**"The Sandwich Generation": Calvary Presbyterian Church.** Arbor Hospice representative Marie Pierce discusses the ins and outs of being a caretaker for both children and parents or grandparents. *7 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2727 Fernwood. Free. 971–3121.*

★**"Jobs Not Jails": U-M MLK Symposium/U-M Nonprofit and Public Management Center.** Talk by Gregory Boyle, founder of the nonprofit Homeboy Industries (L.A.) that runs several small businesses that employ former gang members and at-risk youth. *7 p.m., U-M Business School Blau Auditorium, 701 Tappan. Free. 763–4214, mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

★**"Born On A Blue Day: Inside The Mind Of An Autistic Savant": 10th Annual Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads.** Two talks related to this best-selling 2006 memoir by the celebrated British savant Daniel Tammet, the book that has been chosen for the annual Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads community-wide reading program. **"Extraordinary Savant Syndrome"** is a talk (via Skype) by the renowned University of Wisconsin psychiatry professor Darold Treffert, author of *Islands of Genius: The Bountiful Mind of the Autistic, Acquired, and Sudden Savant.* Treffert's talk includes a showing of videos from his interactions with Tammet and Kim Peek, the inspiration for the character of Raymond Babbit in *Rain Man.* **"A Mother's Story: The Account of Jean-Paul Bovee"** is a talk by Missouri state autism agency associate director Julie Donnelly about her experience raising a son with autism. Other Ann Arbor Reads programs at the library this month include a documentary about Tammet (see 15 Sunday Films listing), along with a Comic Artists Forum on Jan. 8, a talk on "How We Communicate"

Denis Matsuev

Not another Russian banger

There's a thin line between staggering virtuosity and stunning brutality, and Russian pianists tend to lean toward the latter.

Even the greatest Russians (Sviatoslav Richter and Vladimir Horowitz spring to mind) are sometimes carried away by their own excitement and pound at climaxes—check out their recordings of Beethoven's Appassionata Sonata. And the worst Russians (here we'll name only Boris Berman, though a half-dozen others spring to mind) too often pummel with giddy abandon during difficult passages to cover their lack of technique—try Berman's recording of Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto.

But as anyone who's heard him play will tell you, Denis Matsuev is not another Russian banger. Sure, he can bang, or at least get mighty close to it. The recording from his Carnegie Hall recital of a piano transcription of *In the Hall of the Mountain King* builds to a climax of almost-but-not-quite-out-of-control power. And sure, he's a virtuoso in a long line of Russian virtuosos. His performance last season of Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto with the Mariinsky Orchestra recalled Horowitz's performance of the same piece here at a May Festival thirty-odd years ago in its heroic strength, though the youthful Matsuev displayed more fidelity to the score than did the aging Horowitz.

Immediately reengaged by the UMS, Matsuev returns to Hill Auditorium on Monday, January 23, to perform his first local solo concert. In contrast to Yuja Wang's recent recital, which consisted mostly of encores, Matsuev's program is all hard-core repertoire: Schubert's haunting A minor Sonata, D. 784, Beethoven's barnstorming Appassionata, Grieg's romantic Sonata in E minor, and Stravinsky's bulldozing Three Movements from Petrouchka.

Judging from his recordings of two of these works, it seems likely that Matsuev will repeat his Mariinsky success as a solo performer. His Appassionata scowls, squalls, and storms in the opening movement, sings a hymn of love and peace in the central movement, and rides hell-bent for glory in the closing movement. Matsuev is plainly playing for the last row of the last balcony, but since Beethoven is, too, it's absolutely appropriate.

The Three Movements from Petrouchka ought to bring down the house. Transcribed for solo piano by Stravinsky from his ballet for Arthur Rubinstein—who famously complained it was too difficult and declined to perform it—the Three Movements are indeed transcendentally intractable, and only the greatest pianists have had the guts to essay it. In his recording, Matsuev plays with unerring accuracy, unnerving energy, and unrivalled intensity. If his performance here is as good, only *In the Hall of the Mountain King* could serve as an encore.

—James Leonard

on Jan. 11, and a talk on "Autism: the Brain-Mind Connection" on Jan. 31 (see listings). *7–9 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Prehispanic Maya Kinship": Michigan Archaeological Society.** Talk by EMU archaeology and anthropology professor Bradley Ensor. *7:30 p.m., U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 434 S. State. Free. (248) 437–4183.*

★**"Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President": U-M Ford Presidential Library.** Best-selling writer **Candice Millard** discusses her acclaimed new book about America in the 1880s and the assassination of President Garfield. Signing and reception. *7:30 p.m., Ford Library, 1000 Beal. Free. 205–0555.*

★**Step Afrika!: U-M MLK Symposium.** Performance by this Washington, D.C.–based dance company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, an African American dance style that incorporates rhythmic footsteps, clapping, and spoken word. *7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Free. mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"A Stone Carver": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun., Jan. 19–Mar. 10.* Rhiannon Ragland directs William Mastrosimone's touching drama about a retired stonemason who's evicted from his home to make space for a highway. When he barricades himself in his house, his son must convince him to leave the home and all the memories it holds. Cast: Matthew David, Guy Sanville, Charlyn Swarthout. *8 p.m. (Wed.–Sat.), 3 p.m. (Wed. & Sat.), and 2 p.m. (Sun.), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Jan. 19–27 preview tickets: $20 (Wed. & Thurs.), $25 (Fri. eves. & weekend matinees), & 30 (Sat. eve.). After Jan. 27: Tickets $25 (Wed. & Thurs.), $35 (Fri. eves. & weekend matinees), & $40 (Sat. eves.) in advance at purplerosetheatre.org, and by phone. 433–7673.*

Myq Kaplan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan 19–21.* Ann Arbor debut of this acclaimed East Coast comic, a frequent guest on both network and cable TV known for his fast-paced, snappy, thought-provoking observational humor coming from a brightly intellectual Jewish atheist vegan point of view. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $12 (Thurs.) & $15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

20 FRIDAY

★**"Family Art Morning": Allen Creek Preschool.** Kids up to age 6, accompanied by a parent, are invited to work on arts and crafts projects. *10–11 a.m., Allen Creek Preschool, 2350 Miller. Free. 994–3382.*

★**"2nd Annual Beat Battle": F.O.K.U.S.** A DJ competition in which participants mix their own beats

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using songs in various genres from soul, funk, and pop to classical and jazz. Also, dancing. *Time TBA, Michigan Union Ballroom. Free. mlksymposium.umich.edu.*

Sauerkraut Supper: Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Includes pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes & gravy, spaetzle, veggies, and pie. *6–7:30 p.m., Bethlehem UCC, 423 S. Fourth Ave. $10 (kids 10 & under, $4) in advance and (if available) at the door. 665–6149.*

★Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department. *Jan. 20 & 27.* Fiction and poetry readings by U-M creative writing grad students. *Tonight:* **Audra Puchalski** and **James Pinto.** *7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615–3710.*

Einstein on the Beach: University Musical Society. *Jan. 20–22.* Director Robert Wilson and composer Philip Glass's critically acclaimed avant-garde 1976 opera, hailed as a 20th-century artistic masterpiece, consists of 4 interconnected acts that eschew traditional narrative and musical structures. The staging juxtaposes images of Einstein—as a violinist and the father of nuclear energy—with dances choreographed by Lucinda Childs. The music, composed for synthesizers, woodwinds, and choral and solo voice, is based on a repeating cycle that gradually adds and subtracts harmonies and rhythms. Revived twice since its 1976 premiere, *Einstein* was hailed by a *New York Times* critic as "like nothing I had ever encountered … some dark star whose effects we can only feel" and "an experience to cherish for a lifetime." The 5-hour opera lacks intermissions, so audience members are permitted to leave and enter at will. *7 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18–$54 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office & ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★Ann Arbor Train & Trolley Watchers. Club members give presentations on **"Desert Rails," "Toronto,"** and **"Upper Mississippi River Valley."** *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church blue classroom, 306 N. Division ("just up the hill from the Amtrak station"). Free. 996–8345, 971–8329.*

★Ann Arbor Kirtan. All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet-saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

★"O Dulcis Jesu: Divine Music Celebrating the Son of God": First Baptist Church Ad Libitum Concert Series. The local Renaissance and Baroque music ensemble **Sfogati** performs music reflecting the story of Jesus by Monteverdi, Cozzolani, Praetorius, Schein, Schütz and others. Members are coloratura soprano Lorna Hildebrandt, cornetto player Kiri Tollaksen, and harpsichordist and organist Shin-Ae Chun. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.*

"Confessions on a Choir Stage: An Introspective Retrospective": Out Loud Chorus. *Jan. 21 & 22.* Dan Gerics directs this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in a program of favorites from earlier shows, including the likes of "Michigan Morn," "I Am What I Am," "Viva la Vida," "I'm into Something Good," "True Colors," and "Scarborough Fair/Sounds of Silence." *8 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $13 (students, $5; unemployed, free) in advance at olconline.org & Common Language Books and from Out Loud members, $15 at the door. 973–6084.*

The Juggernaut Jug Band: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Traditional jug band music by this acclaimed quartet from Louisville, the birthplace of jug bands. A mixture of classic jazz, ragtime, and blues, jug band music is a swaggering party music, full of high spirits and sexual humor, performed by a modified string band that includes kazoos and other wind instruments, washboard, and, of course, a stoneware jug, an instrument from which a good musician can coax a surprisingly lyrical, hauntingly reverberant sound. The material on Juggernaut's latest CD *You Mean We Get Paid for This?* ranges from the Mississippi Sheiks' blues standard "Sittin' on Top of the World" to Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance." Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"60th Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert": EMU Dance Program. *Jan. 20–22.* EMU dance students perform works in an eclectic mix of genres from ballet and modern dance to jazz and musical theater by guest choreographers and EMU dance professors TBA. *8 p.m., EMU Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 (students with ID, $8) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.*

"A Body of Water": Threefold Productions. *Every Fri. & Sat., Jan. 20–Feb. 4., and Jan. 25.* Threefold Production artistic director Sarah Lucas directs this new theater company in Lee Blessing's 2005 enigmatic drama about a middle-aged couple who wake up one morning in an isolated summer house high above a picturesque body of water to discover that neither of them can remember who they are. Cast: Lee Stille, Brenda Lane, and Luna Alexander. *8 p.m., Mix Performance Space, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. $18 (students & seniors, $15) in advance at ThreefoldProductions.org and at the door. 778–0627.*

"A Stone Carver": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 19 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Myq Kaplan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

21 SATURDAY

2nd Annual Ann Arbor Dodgeball Championship: Skyline High School Crew Team Fundraiser. All adults and kids in 4th grade and above invited to form co-ed teams of 7–10 players to compete in round-robin and elimination tournaments. Prizes for top teams in each of 5 age categories (grades 4 & 5, middle school, high school, adult, and over 30). *8 a.m.–9 p.m., Skyline High School, 2552 N. Maple Rd. $10 per person. Preregistration for teams required by Jan. 20 at annarbordodgeball.com (individuals may join a team if there's space on the day of the event). skylinedodgeball@umich.edu.*

25th Anniversary Antique Show: Saline Area Historical Society. Juried show and sale of antiques from many dealers. Concessions. *Note:* new location. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Liberty School, 7265 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $3. 944–0713, 429–3164.*

9th Annual Chess Tournament: Thurston Elementary School. Low-key tournament for kids in grades K–8, with 4 sections based on age & skill level. Profits go to the Thurston PTO. *9 a.m.–5 p.m. (experienced players) & noon–5 p.m. (beginning players), Thurston, 2300 Prairie (off Plymouth Rd. east of Huron Pkwy.). $6–$15. Space limited; preregistration required at ThurstonChess.com. 663–6326.*

★"Come Hungry for a Fresh Word": Aglow International. Talk by Oasis House of Prayer (Canton) representative Jen Lombardo. Aglow is an international Christian organization devoted to meeting people's spiritual needs. *9:30 a.m.–noon, 340 WCC Liberal Arts Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 971–4545.*

Laura Cater-Woods: Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild. Talk by this Montana-based quilter whose work is inspired by natural elements, forms, and rhythms. Preceded at 9 a.m. by a business meeting and followed at 11 a.m. by a member show & tell. *9:45 a.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $10 (members, free). (248) 349–7322.*

"Nature Tales": Leslie Science and Nature Center. All kids ages 1–5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited to hear stories about winter. *10–11 a.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $2 per person. 997–1533.*

★"Self Defense": Ann Arbor District Library. Master Lockman's Black Belt Academy (Dexter) staff introduce teens in grade 6 & up to basic self defense. *10–11 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Einstein as a Cultural Figure": U-M Physics Department Saturday Morning Physics/University Musical Society. U-M physics professor **Fred Adams** moderates a panel discussion with composer **Philip Glass,** University of Chicago cosmology scholar **Michael Turner—**author of *The Early Universe*—and **Sean Carroll,** a California Institute of Technology theoretical physicist who has been featured in *Wired* and the *New York Times* and has appeared on *The Colbert Report.* In conjunction with the UMS production of *Einstein on the Beach* (see 20 Friday). *10 a.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–4437.*

★"Wintertime—Nature Stories & a Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Kids age 4 & over invited for stories, hiking, and hot drinks. *10:30 a.m.–noon, County Farm Park, Platt Rd. entrance. Free. Preregistration required. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★"Unusual Dendrobiums": Great Lakes Judging Center. Slide-illustrated talk on some of the lesser-seen of this colorful orchid species. *11 a.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647–7600.*

★"DNA: The Source Code": U-M Exhibit Museum. *Every Sat. & Sun., Jan. 21–29.* Hands-on 20-minute demo about how DNA is extracted and how museum scientists use it to aid in the conservation of species and learn about evolutionary history. *11 a.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

"The Verve Pipe: A Family Show": The Ark. *See review, p. 71.* Family concert by this veteran dance-rock band, led by West Michigan singer-songwriter Brian Vander Ark, that recently released its debut

family album, the helpfully titled *A Family Album*. It features energetic guitar-based tunes on such topics as breakfast cereal and getting up in the morning. *11 a.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Enchanted Island": Quality 16. Live broadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera** production of Jeremy Sams' new opera featuring the music of various Baroque composers, including Handel, Vivaldi, and Rameau. The action, inspired by 18th-century masques and musical pastiches, is a Shakespearean adaptation that transposes the lovers from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* into the setting of *The Tempest. 12:55 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets $23 (seniors, $20; kids age 12 & under & students, $13.50) in advance at gqti.com/met.aspx and at the door. 623–7469.*

"Wolverine Will": Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Carla Milarch's educational theater work takes kids in grades K–6 on a whirlwind tour of Michigan history, from lumberjacks to lug nuts. Milk & cookies. *1 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youth under age 16, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

★**"Dwarf and Unusual Conifers for the Rock Garden": North American Rock Garden Society.** Talk by former American Conifer Society president Don Wild. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. by a business meeting and at noon by a potluck (nonmembers welcome for both, but asked to call ahead). *1:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 996–0692.*

U-M Men's Gymnastics vs. Penn State. *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

"4th Annual Quiz Night": Beth Israel Congregation. All adults and high school students invited to form teams to compete in a multimedia trivia contest that includes written puzzles. Dessert. *7 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation, 2000 Washtenaw. $10 (high school students, $5). 665–9897.*

"2013: Muerta Goes to Space Prison": Dreamland Theater. See 7 Saturday. 7 p.m.

Einstein on the Beach: University Musical Society. See 20 Friday. 7 p.m.

"FutureStars 2011": Pioneer High School. See 13 Friday. Tonight: **Finals competition.** 7:30 p.m.

"Confessions on a Concert Stage: An Introspective Retrospective": Out Loud Chorus. See 20 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

International Folk Dancing: Ann Arbor Folkdancers. Balkan and other European dances to live music by Veselba. *8–11 p.m., Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $10 (students, $5). 995–0011.*

Jumpin' January Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of socializing and dancing to recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by a DJ. Cash bar. *8 p.m.–midnight, Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 578–3664.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. With callers Robin Warner and Peter Baker and live music TBA. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. Preceded by a lesson at 7:30 p.m. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10 (members, $7; students with ID, $5). 426–0241.*

Caleb Curtis & Chris Pattishall: Kerrytown Concert House. Ann Arbor–bred saxophonist Curtis and pianist Pattishall, both up-and-coming NYC-based musicians, play jazz standards and originals. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. 4th Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Music by Bach's Muses": Bach & Beethoven Ensemble (Academy of Early Music). This Chicago-based ensemble of baroque violinists Brandi Berry and Martha Perry, baroque cellist Anna Steinhoff, and harpsichordist Mark Shuldiner performs works by composers who influenced Bach, including Pachelbel, Buxtehude, Handel, Couperin, and Vivaldi. The program is highlighted by Bach's Organ Trio Sonata in D minor. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lecture about the program. *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets $20 (seniors, $17; students, $5) in advance at AcademyofEarlyMusic.org, Nicola's Books (Westgate shopping center), & by phone, and at the door. 528–1838.*

"Mozart Birthday Bash": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO music director Arie Lipsky conducts the orchestra in a concert celebrating Mozart's 256th birthday. The program is highlighted by his *Prague Symphony,* which premiered during Mozart's 1787 visit to Bohemia. This unique symphony lacks the traditional minuet, and its three movements are all in sonata form. The AASO also performs the *Don Giovanni* overture and the graceful, charming Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat major with internationally known pianist **Ran Dank.** *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10–$55 (discounts for students & seniors; 1st-time season subscribers, buy 1 get 1 free) in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron, suite 470), at a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.*

"Confessions on a Choir Stage: An Introspective Retrospective": Out Loud Chorus. See 20 Friday. 8 p.m.

"60th Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert": EMU Dance Program. See 20 Friday. 8 p.m.

"A Body of Water": Threefold Productions. See 20 Friday. 8 p.m.

"A Stone Carver": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 19 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Myq Kaplan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

22 SUNDAY

"Monster Ann Arbor Record & CD Collector's Show": Wildwood Records. Popular fair with more than 50 dealers from a half dozen states selling rare and collectible used records and CDs as well as hard-to-find new releases. Includes every popular music genre, along with rock music books, rock videos, posters, and assorted popular culture memorabilia. Food and beverages for sale. Patrons may bring in a small number of records to sell. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $3 admission (children age 10 & under, free). For information or to reserve a dealer table, call Ken Price at (574) 329–1483.*

★**"6th Annual Worst Day of the Year Ride": Wheels in Motion Cycle and Fitness.** All invited to join rides of 40 miles, 20 miles, 12 miles, and 6 miles around Ann Arbor. Also, an "Abominable Snow Man" mountain bike ride, dependent on trail conditions, and an appearance by Mayor Hieftje. All rides end up at a location TBA with free snacks. Prizes & giveaways. *Noon (40-mile ride), 1 p.m. (20-mile ride & mountain bike ride), 2 p.m. (12-mile ride), & 2:30 p.m. (6-mile ride), meet at the Farmers' Market, Detroit St. at N. Fifth Ave. Reservations requested. Free. 971–2121.*

★**"Stretch Your Math Noodle": Ann Arbor District Library.** Mathnasium of Ann Arbor staff present a series of fun games and competitions to help kids in grades K–5 develop their math skills. *1–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Researching Civil War Ancestors": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by professional genealogist Derek Davies. Followed by a talk by club member Barbara Giezentaner on **"Tracing the Descendants of Immigrant Jacob Weber."** *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

★**"Recent Acquisitions: Curator's Choice, Part I": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of this exhibit that includes works by Annie Leibovitz, Edward Steichen, and Rembrandt. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–5763.*

★**Caroline Helton: U-M School of Music.** Recital by this local soprano, a U-M voice professor, who is accompanied by U-M piano professor Kathryn Goodson. Program TBA. *2 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"60th Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert": EMU Dance Program. See 20 Friday. 2 p.m.

Einstein on the Beach: University Musical Society. See 20 Friday. 2 p.m.

"A Stone Carver": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 19 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 2 p.m.

Rhea Olivacce & Brian Giebler: First United Methodist Church Green Wood Chamber Music Series. Soprano Olivacce and tenor Giebler perform opera, musical theater, and oratorio works. Reception follows. *3 p.m., FUMC Green Wood, 1001 Green Rd. Freewill offering. 662–4536, ext. 0.*

★**"Concert for Mott Hospital": U-M Life Sciences Orchestra.** Oriol Sans conducts this ensemble of musicians from the U-M medical and life sciences staff in a family-friendly program of dance-inspired music, including John Adams' *The Chairman Dances,* Tchaikovsky's *Onegin Polonaise,* Ponchielli's *La Gioconda: Dance of the Hours,* Michael Daugherty's *Red Cape Tango,* and Arturo Márquez's *Danzón No. 2.* The program also features Saint-Saens' *Danse*

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Macabre and Sarasate's *Zigeunerweisen,* with soloist **Jourdan Urbach,** a 19-year-old violin prodigy. Also, a "petting zoo" of string and percussion instruments in the lobby for kids. Proceeds benefit Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital. *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free, but donations accepted. 936–ARTS.*

23 MONDAY

★**"The Sex of Men in Pre-Modern Europe": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** U-M romance languages professor Catherine Brown, women's studies and art professor Celeste Brusati, and Germanic languages and history professor Scott Spector are joined by U-M art history and women's studies professor **Patricia Simons** in a discussion of Simons' book about how male bodies were viewed before the Enlightenment. *3–4:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764–9537.*

★**C.D. Wright: U-M Hopwood Underclassmen Awards Ceremony.** Reading by this widely acclaimed Arkansas-bred poet, a Brown University English professor whose elliptical, rhythmically engaging poetry is rooted in a sense of place, especially the threadbare social realities of America's poor in body and spirit. "Hailing from Arkansas, Wright has a drawl, a make-do sensibility, and a bluesy intimacy with the grittier side of life, writing of wild weather, racism, desperation, and lust," says the American Library Association in its review of her 2002 collection *Steal Away.* "Her poems are crazy quilts constructed out of bits of conversation, a to-do list, dreams, a treatment for a harrowing silent film, and a saxophone solo, but Wright also offers sophisticated readings of the routines and cycle of ordinary life, and ponders the amazing persistence of the ever-hungry body and the tricky mind." Preceded by awards presentations to U-M undergrad poets and prose writers. *3:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre. Free. 764–6296.*

★**"Translation in the Ancient and Modern Near East": U-M Center for Near Eastern Studies.** Lecture by U-M Near Eastern studies grad student Spencer Scoville. *4 p.m., 2022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer. Free. 764–0314.*

★**"Yoga for Women": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local yoga teacher Victoria Duranona leads a program of kundalini yoga exercises. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Naomi Shihab Nye: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** Poetry reading by this award-winning Palestinian American poet whose work addresses heritage, shared and differing cultural experiences, travel, and peace. Nye's more than 25 books have been praised for their liveliness, imagination, and empathy. "Nye breathes poetry like the rest of us breathe air," writes a *Grand Rapids Press* reviewer. "When she exhales, the world becomes different. Better." Nye also gives a lecture at 5:10 p.m. on Jan. 26. *7 p.m., UMMA Apse, 525 S. State. Free. 615–3710.*

Denis Matsuev: University Musical Society. *See review, p. 67.* This fiery Russian pianist, "perhaps the new Horowitz" according to a *London Times* review, is noted for his bravura blend of strength and ease and has stirred audiences worldwide with his deeply felt performances. The 36-year-old virtuoso last played here in 2010, performing Rachmaninoff's technically staggering Piano Concerto No. 3 with the celebrated Mariinsky Orchestra. Tonight's program includes Schubert's Sonata in A Minor, Beethoven's Sonata in F Minor, Grieg's Sonata in E Minor, and Stravinsky's *Three Movements from Petrouchka. 7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$56 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office & ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★**Student Composers Forum Recital: U-M School of Music.** Performers TBA play music student works. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

24 TUESDAY

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** *Every Tues. beginning Jan. 24.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. *Jan. 24:* **"Never Far Away,"** a talk by MacArthur Fellow Bright Sheng, a U-M Music School composition professor, on the "Chineseness" of his compositions. *Jan. 31:* University of Illinois-Chicago Chinese lecturer Esther Klein discusses **"Sima Qian's Confucius and the Western Han Lunyu."** *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★**"Wiera Gran: A Singer, A Collaborator? The Other Side of Polanski's Pianist": U-M Annual Copernicus Lecture.** Talk by **Agata Tuszynska,** author of a controversial biography of the Polish

Verve Pipe

Muscular family music

Many of us fondly remember the musicians who recorded the songs we listened to and sang along with when we were kids. The senior set may recall Burl Ives, Woody Guthrie, and Pete Seeger; others might think of Peter Paul and Mary (Mommy); still others, more recently, recall Raffi and Sharon, Lois and Bram. Folkies all, right? In the past few years, there's been a different trend, since Dan Zanes (of the Del Fuegos) and other prominent rockers began recording and performing music especially for children.

One such group, the Michigan-based Verve Pipe, is now rockin' for a second generation—the kids of the fans who first flocked to their shows and bought their CDs by the millions in the Nineties. After recording a number of highly acclaimed albums for indie labels and RCA, the band released their first CD for children two years ago and have since been performing regularly for kids and families, in addition to their ongoing touring for adult audiences.

Their *A Family Album* grew out of an invitation to write and record a children's song for a compilation album entitled *Calling All Kids.* After writing one song, the band's songwriters, Brian Vander Ark and Donny Brown, found themselves on a roll and soon realized they had an album's worth of songs for the preteen set.

But neither on the recording nor in their live shows for kids do they tone down the hard driving rock 'n' roll that has been the hallmark of the Verve Pipe sound for nearly two decades. This isn't folk music with bass and drums added. Instead they take their muscular rock song envelopes and stuff them with clever, carefully crafted, and appropriately silly lyrics about family-friendly subjects. "Why do they call it a hamburger, there's no ham in it. Why do they call it a sandwich, there's no sand in it. Why do they call it a hot dog, there's no dog in it (or is there)?" Another song, "We Had to Go Home," gleefully relates some wild birthday party hijinks, while "Cereal" is a rock anthem to the breakfast staple. The repeating line, "I love my cereal" is so catchy your kids will continue belting it out—and you'll find yourself wishing that Verve Pipe would write a song that good about veggies. On the soft side, "Only One of You" gently reassures a child who's about to get a new brother or sister.

Combining serious rock 'n' roll creds and chops, the members of Verve Pipe, several of whom are now themselves parents, have found a way to channel their childhood memories into great music for kids—and for parents and grandparents who recall their rock 'n' roll youth.

Verve Pipe returns to the Ark for an 11 a.m. show on Saturday, January 21.

—Sandor Slomovits

cabaret singer Wiera Gran that accuses Wladyslaw Szpilman, an icon of Polish resistance against the Nazis (and the subject of Roman Polanski's film *The Pianist*), of actually collaborating with the Gestapo during the Polish occupation. Followed by a screening of Maria Zmarz-Koczanowicz's 2011 documentary ***Wiera Gran.*** *4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351, 764–0397.*

★**"Mood, Food, And Attitude: Metabolic Syndrome In Depression": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talks by U-M psychiatry professors Gregory Dalack and Amy Kilbourne, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with U-M Depression Center experts. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice Racial Justice Book Group.** All invited to join a discussion of Tim Wise's book. *7–9 p.m., St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 1679 Broadway. Free. Child care available with advance notice. 663–1870.*

★**"The Orphan Master's Son": Nicola's Books.** Stanford University creative writing professor **Adam Johnson** discusses his new novel about a North Korean boy given his first taste of power in a work camp for orphans when he's allowed to choose which orphans eat first and which will be lent out for manual labor. From there, he rises through the ranks of governmental hierarchy. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Ning Wu Du & Helen Sim: U-M School of Music.** This internationally acclaimed husband-and-wife piano duo—both professors at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music (Guangzhou, China)—performs works by Grieg, Schumann, and Chinese composers Xing-Hai Xian and Qian Du. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–2538.*

25 WEDNESDAY

"Current Challenges in Federal Prosecution": Ann Arbor City Club. Lecture by **Barbara McQuade,** the U.S. attorney for the eastern district of Michigan. Lunch follows. *11:30 a.m., AACC, 1830 Washtenaw. $20. Reservations required by Jan. 20. 662–3279.*

★**Brown Bag Organ Series: U-M School of Music.** Local organist Heather Nofar performs a program TBA. *12:15–12:45 p.m., U-M School of Public Health Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 764–2538.*

"A Stone Carver": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 19 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"Sacred Hands": U-M Library.** Curators Pablo Alvarez, Evyn Kropf, and Arthur Verhoogt give a multimedia presentation on the current exhibit of Judaic, Christian, and Islamic manuscripts. *4–6 p.m., U-M Hatcher Grad Library. Free. 615–5783.*

★**"Making Supergerms: Evolution, Antibiotic Research, and Public Health": U-M Exhibit Museum Science Cafe.** Talks by U-M epidemiology professor Betsy Foxman and pediatric infectious disease lecturer Terri Stillwell. Followed by discussion. *5:30–7:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Free. 764–0478.*

Cooking Demos: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. *Jan. 25, 26, & 31.* Demonstrations by Whole Foods staffers, including **"Baking with Chocolate"** (Jan. 25), a **"How Do You Cook That?"** seafood demo (Jan. 26), and **"Oat Power!"** (Jan. 31). *6 p.m. (Jan. 25 & 31) & 5:30 p.m. (Jan. 26), Whole Foods, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. $10 (Jan. 25), free (Jan. 26), & $5 (Jan. 31). Reservations required. 997–7500.*

★**MiRobotClub.** Robotics hobbyists work on and discuss their current projects. Visitors welcome. *7 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd. north of Ellsworth). Free. (517) 618–9546.*

★**"Strategies for Managing Screen Time": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by U-M Institute for Human Adjustment clinical psychologist Polly Gipson. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Members Bonsai Collections: A Virtual Tour": Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.** Club members show photographs that illustrate the "nuts and bolts" of maintaining a bonsai collection. *7 p.m., U-M Mat-*

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★**"Imagining the Forest: Narratives of Michigan and the Upper Midwest": Nicola's Books.** U-M English professor emeritus **John Knott** discusses his new book that delineates 2 competing metaphors that have been used to understand forests in American culture: a wilderness in need of subjugation and a temple worthy of reverence and protection. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**History of Science Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Boyle: Between God and Science,*** Michael Hunter's biography of Robert Boyle, the 17th-century scientist and inventor who was also noted for his theological writings. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★**"A Celebration of the Songs and Poems of Robert Burns."** Local singer and harpist **Carol Kappus** performs song settings of Robert Burns' poems, in honor of Burns' 253rd birthday. Also, a bagpipe performance and a surprise guest who tells about Burns' life and reads some of Burns' poetry. Kappus performs the same program at the Dexter District Library (3255 Alpine, Dexter) at 2 p.m. on Jan. 29. *7:30 p.m., TeaHaus, 204 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 424–9039.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler conducts this U-M music student ensemble in Danish composer Carl Nielsen's *Inextinguishable Symphony,* a work composed during WWI that blends a sense of violent struggle with a stunning triumphant musical expression of what Nielsen called "the elemental will to live." Also, a concerto TBA featuring the winner of the music school's annual concerto competition. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a talk. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–2538.*

"A Body of Water": Threefold Productions. See 20 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

26 THURSDAY

"Under the African Sky": Wild Swan Theater. *Jan. 26–28.* This award-winning local children's theater presents a series of African folktales performed with drumming and other music. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by prearrangement for blind audience members. Appropriate for kids ages 4–10. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (kids, $8) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

★**"Russian Zionists as Youth Communities": U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.** Talk by Tulane University Russian and Jewish studies professor Brian Horowitz. *Noon, 2022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763–9047.*

★**"Visualizing Mobility in the Work of Eadweard Muybridge": U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies.** University of London human geography scholar Tim Cresswell discusses the 19th-century English photographer who used multiple cameras to photograph a galloping horse and pieced the photos together to create one of the first motion pictures. *4–6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615–7400.*

★**"Numbers as Tools for Thinking": U-M Library/U-M Theme Semester on Language.** Stanford University psychology professor Michael Frank discusses his use of number representations to elucidate the relationship between language and thought in various cultures. *4 p.m., U-M Hatcher Library, U-M Diag. Free. 764–0400.*

★**MLK Day Lecture: U-M Women's Studies Department/Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Spelman College (Atlanta) women's studies professor Beverly Guy-Sheftall discusses Coretta Scott King's vision of "the beloved community" and work as a political activist. *5–6:30 p.m., Michigan Union Pond Room. Free. 764–9537.*

★**Maira Kalman & Daniel Handler: U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Talk by illustrator Kalman and fiction writer Handler, aka the pseudonymous children's writer **Lemony Snicket,** about *Why We Broke Up,* their new illustrated novel about an ill-fated teenage love affair. *5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

★**Two of a Kind: Ann Arbor District Library.** Family concert by the nationally known, Philadelphia-based children's music duo of husband and wife David and Jenny Heitler-Klevans, who specialize in interactive programs that mix songs, puppets, movements, and stories. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Story Collider: Where Science and Hilarity Combine": Ann Arbor District Library.** Story Collider representatives, joined by local presenters TBA, bring to town this NYC-based show in which participants share their stories about how science has affected their lives. The show has been described as "This American Life meets Nova." A big hit in its earlier local appearances. *7–9 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First. Free. 327–4555.*

"Much Ado About Nothing": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *Jan. 26–29.* Cassie Mann directs local actors in AACT's take on Shakespeare's high-spirited, sharp-tongued comedy about 2 pairs of young lovers. One couple, both disdainful of love, are tricked into acknowledging each other, while the other couple's love is nearly ruined by a deception that leads to trumped-up charges of infidelity. This version is set in the Old West and populated with cowboys and barmaids. Stars Chrissie D'Amato, Meredith Deighton, Heather Liebal, Rob Roy, Artun Kircali, James Ingagiola, and Ken Karges. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets $20 (seniors age 60 & over, $18; students, $10; Thurs., $15) in advance & at the door. 971–2228.*

"A Stone Carver": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 19 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Dustin Ybarra: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan 26–28.* Ann Arbor debut of this young stand-up comic who specializes in outsized tales about his life as a thuggish single nerd. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

27 FRIDAY

"Drop-in and Draw: Fridays in the Gallery": UMMA/Ann Arbor Art Center. *Every Fri., Jan. 27–Mar. 16.* All invited to make drawings inspired by works in the museum. Art Center instructor Heather Accurso is on hand to offer guidance. Materials provided. *11:10 a.m.–1 p.m., check-in at the UMMA information desk, 525 S. State. $10 (includes materials). 763–UMMA.*

★**"Assessing Vulnerability Under Extreme Conditions in Myanmar": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies.** Talk by University College (London) social anthropology professor David Napier. *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0352.*

★**"Manilow Competition": EMU Music Department.** EMU undergrad vocalists and instrumentalists in all styles—classical, jazz, & pop—compete in this scholarship competition funded by pop singer Barry Manilow. *3 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Tribes, Teas, and Tigers in India's Far East": U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Talk by Gauhati University (India) geography professor Anup Saikia. *4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0448.*

"Value Beers for the New Year": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. Tastings of 6 inexpensive beers. *6–7 p.m., Whole Foods wine bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. $6. Preregistration required. 997–7500.*

★**Black Belt Testing: Quest Martial Arts.** Quest students are tested for their black belts. Also, an honorary black belt is presented to a local community leader. Followed by pizza, snacks, and drinks. *6–9 p.m., Scarlett Middle School, 3300 Lorraine. Free. 332–1800.*

Robert Burns Social Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. Scottish country dancing with live music by Susie Lorand & friends. The program begins with a potluck dinner (bring a dish to pass) with haggis and Burns songs. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. *6:30–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10. 769–1052, 395–7782.*

35th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark. *January 27 & 28 (different programs).* A major highlight of the local musical year, with established and rising stars representing a wide spectrum of vernacular musical idioms. Emcee both nights is **Heywood Banks,** the stage name of Howell native Stuart Mitchell, a very animated comedian known for his silly musical spoofs, goofy prop humor, and sight gags. Tonight's headliner is **Ryan Adams,** the former frontman of the alt-country band Whiskeytown who writes rough-hewn rock 'n' roll songs with strong pop and country influences that have provoked comparisons to the Byrds and the Band. Also appearing: **DeVotchka** is a Denver-based postpunk Gypsy-rock quartet. **Dawes** is a southern California Americana quartet. **Carbon Leaf** is an acoustic Celtic-rock quintet from Richmond, Virginia. **Elephant Revival** is a Colorado-based psychedelic

folk-rock sextet whose music also incorporates elements of reggae and hip-hop. **Sunny War** is a young country blues songstress from LA known for her dexterous, dynamic acoustic guitar playing. **David Wax Museum** is an ensemble led by Missouri-bred singer-songwriter Wax that plays a bracing, high-energy mix of Mexican folk music with rootsy indie rock. *6:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $35 & $47.50 per night and $60 & $85 for both nights in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio and the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mototix.com), and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Homegrown": Ann Arbor WordWorks. Members of this college-age local performance poetry troupe perform original individual and ensemble poems. Members include Ben Alfaro, Brittany Floyd, Carlina Duan, Chris Moriarty, Courtney Whittier, Daniel Bigham, Fiona Chamness, Gahl Liberzon, Haley Patail, Isaia Peet-Blakeney, Lauren Weston, Maggie Hangs, Mike Kulick, Mike Moriarty, Peggy Burrows, and Tony Zick. *7 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. $10 (students, $5) in advance by email to eyelev21@aol.com; $12 (students, $7) at the door. 709–0380.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** See 20 Friday. Tonight: **John Ganiard** and **Dan Keane.** 7 p.m.

★**"Portraits": U-M School of Music.** Sopranos **Jennifer Goltz** and **Kimberly Haynes,** accompanied by pianist **Timothy Cheek,** perform 2 song cycles by Pulitzer Prize–winning composer and U-M music professor emeritus **William Bolcom,** one based on the diary of Thomas Jefferson's slave and longtime partner Sally Hemings and one exploring the last months in the life of the late American poet Jane Kenyon. Also, Bolcom's wife, mezzo soprano **Joan Morris,** joins him for a performance of *Minicabs,* his new set of cabaret miniatures. *8 p.m., UMMA apse, 525 S. State. Free. 764–2538.*

"Wine, Women, & Song X": Kerrytown Concert House. *Jan. 27–29.* An elegant evening of jazz, classical, and cabaret songs showcasing noted local women singers, accompanied by pianist Jerry DePuit. Singers include director Wendy Bloom, Sue Booth, Carolyn Burnstein, Shelley MacMillan, Lisa Gray, Roxie Kring, Jennifer Hilbish Schuetz, Beth Major, Sylvia Pittman, Deanna Relyea, Jane Schoonmaker Rodgers, Susan Shipman, and Monica Swartout-Bebow. Wine is served. *8 p.m. (Jan. 27 & 28) & 4 p.m. (Jan. 29), KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $20–$50. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"A Body of Water": Threefold Productions. See 20 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Much Ado About Nothing": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 26 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Stone Carver": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 19 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Dustin Ybarra: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Fire & Ice Tango Festival": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *Jan. 27–30 (different locations).* Four fiery days of tango dances with recorded music spun by a DJ. Also, tango workshops during the day. *8:30 p.m.—midnight, Michigan League Vandenberg Room. $15 (students, $10). umich.edu/~umtango*

28 SATURDAY

24th Annual Farm Toy Show: Saline Future Farmers of America. Show and sale of farm toys aimed at kids and serious collectors. Includes NASCAR items, tractors, pedal-push tractors, Beanie Babies, and truck, farm vehicle, and harvesting vehicle collectibles. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. 429–8030, ext. 2343.*

★**"Winterfest": City of Saline.** Wintertime activities, including a **5-km race,** kids activities, and the **"Snowman Making Championship of the Free World"** (1–3 p.m.), with the Saline team competing against teams from Zeeland, St. Clair, Douglas, and other towns—all using whatever amount and sort of snow happens to be available. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Ann Arbor St. and Henne Field, Saline. Free. 429–4907.*

★**Grange Junior Maker: Pittsfield Union Grange.** All kids (assisted by an adult) invited to build a workbench for use at future monthly programs. Bring tools to use or donate. *10 a.m.–noon, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 926–5079.*

★**"Annual Winter Stonefly Search": Huron River Watershed Council.** All invited to join a watershed-wide hunt for these elusive river insects, which are active only in winter when fish are sluggish. Wear warm clothes. (You will not go into the water.) Children must be accompanied by an adult. *10:30 a.m.–3 p.m. or noon–4:30 p.m., meeting location TBA. Free. Preregistration required by Jan. 20 at hrwc.org/volunteer/stonefly. 769–5123, ext. 600.*

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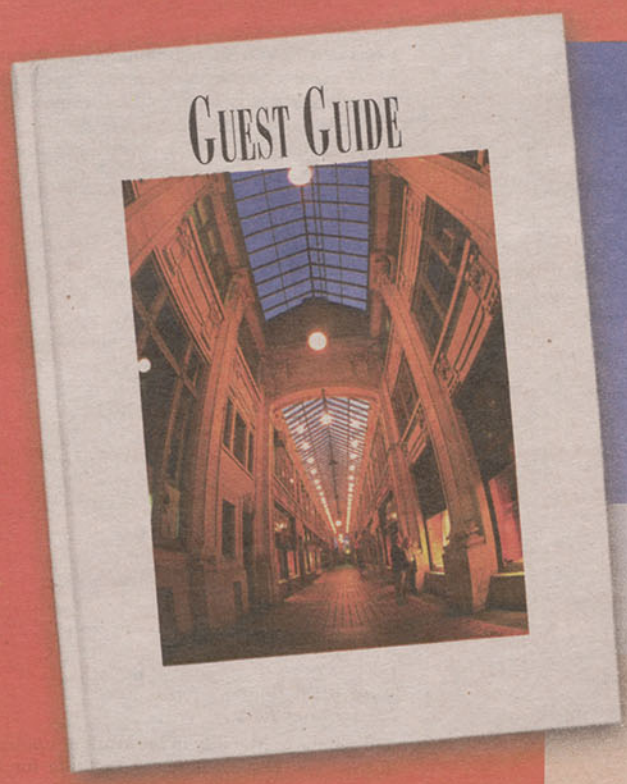

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Materials Closing: Tuesday, March 13
Publication: April 2012

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Did you know...

*Overnight visitors staying in hotels account for 48% of Washtenaw county visitor spending—over $200 million per year!**

*Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Washtenaw County Economic Analysis, MSU, October, 2006

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Locations in: Ann Arbor, Brighton, Chelsea, Dearborn, and Saline

Paul Izenberg, MD
David Hing, MD
Richard Beil, MD
Daniel Sherick, MD
Ian Lytle, MD

CENTER FOR PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

★**"Crystals Made of Light": U-M Physics Department.** U-M research fellow Rachel Sapiro discusses "optical lattices," crystal lattice structures created by aligning light waves so that they form a standing wave. They are used to explore fundamental principles of quantum mechanics. Part of the popular "Saturday Morning Physics" series of talks, aimed at general audiences. *10:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 500 Church. Free. 764–4437.*

★**Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** All seniors invited to celebrate the legacy of MLK with inspirational, soul-stirring words and music. The program includes a talk by speakers TBA. Refreshments. *1–3 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**Julie Hyzy: Aunt Agatha's.** This mystery writer discusses ***Affairs of Steak,*** the latest in her series of culinary mysteries featuring White House assistant chef Olivia Paras. Signing. Refreshments. *2 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**Groove: Ann Arbor District Library.** Performance by this U-M student percussion and dance ensemble whose hyper-energetic shows feature traditional and nontraditional instruments (trash cans, propane tanks, toothbrushes, and more). *2–2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

"Buhr Blitz": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. Public skating, with a family-oriented program of games and contests. Prizes. *2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for Ann Arbor residents. Skate rentals ($3) available. 971–3228.*

Chinese New Year's Celebration: Ann Arbor Chinese Center of Michigan. A festive party with assorted children's performances in the afternoon (3–5:30 p.m.)—including a lion dance, fan dancing, yo-yo stunts, stories and songs, skits, and more—and kids games & crafts in the evening (7–9 p.m.). Chinese New Year's dinner served, 6–9 p.m. *3–9 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $10 (kids ages 4–14, $8) in advance via email to principal@aaccom.com, $12 (kids ages 4–14, $10; kids under 4, free). Nominal additional cost for games, crafts, and snacks. 730–4875.*

★**Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Joseph Gramley and Jonathan Ovalle direct this energetic music student ensemble in works by respected Canadian-American composer Sydney Hodkinson, including "Night Moves" and "Drawings." *3 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Scandinavian Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Bruce Sagan and others teach traditional turning couple dances, mainly from Sweden and Norway, including hambo, schottis, polska, waltz, and more. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat shoes with smooth hard soles. *5–7 p.m., 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $5 (students, $3). (908) 721–2599.*

"Kids Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All kids in grades K–5 invited for a pizza dinner, games, craft activities, and a screening of ***Kung Fu Panda,*** Mark Osborne and John Stevenson's 2008 animated martial arts action comedy. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC gym, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $25 (members, $20). Reservations required. 971–0990.*

"Dandia Dhamaka": U-M Raas Core 10th Annual Intercollegiate Indian Dance Competition. The nation's premier intercollegiate competition of traditional Indian *raas* dance is an extremely lively affair featuring 8 dance teams from around the nation. The fast-paced, playful raas style originated in ancient times in the northwestern Indian state of Gujarat as part of the Navratri festival that honors Hindu goddesses. It involves rotating circles and changing geometric shapes of elaborately dressed male and female singing dancers who pepper the dance with flourishes and gesture with decorated rods known as dandia. *6:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $15 & $18 (students, $10). dandiadhamaka.com.*

35th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark. See 27 Friday. Tonight's headliner is **Emmylou Harris,** the quintessential country songbird, who sings in a plaintively beautiful soprano that lends itself equally to bluegrass, folk, and rock 'n' roll. She possesses a remarkable emotional range, from ethereal to darkly haunting to edgy and urgent. Best known for her renditions of classic country love songs, Harris is also a superb interpreter of contemporary song. Also appearing: **Glen Campbell** is a veteran folk-inflected country pop singer and guitarist best known for his 60s recordings of John Hartford's "Gentle on My Mind" and a string of hauntingly melancholy Jimmy Webb tunes. Recently diagnosed with Alzheimers, Campbell is making his farewell tour before retiring. **Nanci Griffith** is a singer-songwriter from Austin with a vibrant, crystalline voice that is sometimes hard-driving and gutsy, sometimes delicate and sweet. She specializes in vividly etched renderings of commonplace emotional states and vignettes from ordinary life. **Joe Henry** is a country-rooted folk-rock singer-songwriter who is often compared to Van Morrison for his passionate emotional directness and to Dylan for his restless musical inventiveness and poetic lyrical touch. **Sarah Jarosz** is a 20-year Texas bluegrass-based singer-songwriter and multi-instrumental prodigy whose unassumingly resonant lyricism and piercingly inerrant vocal interpretations have provoked widespread comparisons to a young Gillian Welch. **Caravan of Thieves** is a Gypsy-flavored acoustic swing by this quartet led by the Bridgeport (CT) husband-and-wife duo of Fuzz and Carrie Sangiovanni. **Seth Glier** is a singer-songwriter from western Massachusetts with a powerful falsetto and captivating melodic sense who was featured in the 2009 *Prairie Home Companion* "People in Their 20s" contest. 6:30 p.m.

"2013: Muerta Goes to Space Prison": Dreamland Theater. See 7 Saturday. 7 p.m.

English and American Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Contras, squares, English, and country dances with live music. No partner needed. All dances taught. Wear flat, smooth-sole shoes. *8–11 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

Les Violons du Roy: University Musical Society. Bernard Labadie conducts this premier 15-member Canadian chamber group known for playing modern instruments in Classical period style. They are joined by **Maurice Steger,** a Swiss recorder virtuoso praised for a deft, expressive technique that elevates an elegantly clear and grand sound above the orchestra. Tonight's program includes Handel's Concerto Grosso in B-flat Major, Telemann's Suite in A Minor, Sammartini's Concerto in F Major, and Geminiani's Concerto grosso in D Minor and Concerto in F Major. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $22–$48 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office & ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"A Body of Water": Threefold Productions. See 20 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Much Ado About Nothing": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 26 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Wine, Women, & Song X": Kerrytown Concert House. See 27 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"A Stone Carver": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 19 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Dustin Ybarra: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Fire and Ice Tango Festival": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 27 Friday. Tonight: dance parties at 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (Michigan Union Ballroom) and 2–6 a.m. (Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). 9 p.m. & 2 a.m.

29 SUNDAY

★**"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Robinsongs for Kids director Robin Robinson presents a program of music and movement for babies through 5-year-olds. *1–1:40 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

"Dr. Leslie's Exploratory Laboratory": Leslie Science & Nature Center. All kids ages 6–12 invited to join LSNC staff in some physics and chemistry experiments to make a safe contraption for a falling egg, make your own lava lamp, and explore solar power. *1–3 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $6 (family, $21) in advance, $8 (family, $30) at the door. 997–1553.*

★**"Storytime: Once upon a Winter's Day": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL librarians present a family storytelling program and a craft activity. Hot chocolate. *2–3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

"A Stone Carver": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 19 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Much Ado About Nothing": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 26 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"God of Carnage": Performance Network Professional Season. See 12 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Face of Our Time": UMMA.** UMMA Western art curator Carole McNamara discusses the current photography exhibit that features works by 5 photographers whose work addresses the sometimes volatile civil and political transformations facing society today. *3 p.m., UMMA galleries, 525 S. State. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**"Kirkin' o' the Tartan": First Presbyterian Church.** First Presbyterian Church music director Gerry Leckrone conducts the church's chancel choir

and brass quartet in a performance of this historic Scottish service that dates back to the era of English rule in Scotland, when wearing of the tartan, speaking Gaelic, and playing the pipes were all prohibited. One day each year was dedicated to the blessing of the pieces of tartan secretly retained by the people. The service, which also celebrates the Scottish roots of Presbyterianism, includes performances of anthems by the church choir, congregational singing of hymns from the Scottish psalter, playing of bagpipes by the color guard of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, and the traditional blessing of the tartans. *3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks": Society of Women Engineers Book Club.** All invited to discuss Rebecca Skloot's book about the African American woman who was the unwitting donor of cells used to create an immortal cell line for medical research. *4 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2913 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 572–9243.*

Organ Recital: Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Performance by church organist Gail Jennings. *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Donation. 665–6149.*

"From the Canyons to the Stars": Hamburg Symphony Orchestra (University Musical Society). Jeffrey Tate conducts this highly respected German orchestra in French composer Olivier Messiaen's 12-movement piece inspired by the American West. The music, commissioned in 1971 to commemorate America's bicentennial, was written for strings, percussion, and brass, and evokes landscapes, birdcalls, and twinkling stars. The orchestra is joined by Luxembourg-born pianist **Francesco Tristano.** The musical performance is set against a cinematic backdrop of images by Israeli filmmaker Daniel Landau. *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$65 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office & ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★**Farewell Party: Michigan Peaceworks.** A party to celebrate Michigan Peaceworks' last 10 years of activism, with a slideshow and hors d'oeuvres. Cash bar. *4–7 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Free. Michiganpeaceworks.org.*

"Wine, Women, & Song X": Kerrytown Concert House. See 27 Saturday. 4 p.m.

★**Diana Gannett: U-M School of Music Faculty Recital.** This U-M music professor and double bassist performs works by Mussorgsky, Levitin, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, and Prokofiev. *5 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Fire and Ice Tango Festival": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 27 Friday. Tonight: dance party at the Michigan Union Ballroom. 8 p.m.–1 a.m.

30 MONDAY

"Fire and Ice Tango Festival": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 28 Friday. Tonight: dance party at the Pittsfield Grange (3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.) 8:15 p.m.–midnight.

31 TUESDAY

★**"Democratization in Azerbaijan: Challenges and Opportunities": U-M Armenian Studies Program.** Talk by Far Center for Economic and Political Research (Baku, Azerbaijan) cofounder Hikmet Haji-Zade, a former Azerbaijani vice-premier and ambassador to Russia. *4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 763–0622.*

★**"Black Wealth/White Wealth": Concordia University.** Concordia sociology professor Omari Jackson discusses Melvin Oliver and Thomas Shapiro's book about racial inequality in America. *4 p.m., Concordia University Earhart Manor Living Room, 4090 Geddes. Free. 995–7389.*

"Vino Value Wine Tasting": Vinology. Strolling tastings of around 25 wines that sell for $15 a bottle or less. Hors d'oeuvres. *7–9 p.m., Vinology, 110 S. Main. $25 (plus tax & tip). Reservations required. 222–9841.*

"7th Annual African American Dinner: In Search of My Father's Kitchen": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Chef Alex Young presents a traditional African meal, and University of Illinois English professor Audrey Petty reads her poetry of the African American community and tells stories of her father's Northern migrations and his coming-of-age as a cook, busboy, and migrant worker. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $45 (beverages not included). Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

★**"Autism: The Brain-Mind Connection": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by local developmental and behavioral pediatrician Rick Solomon. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

Recruiting Healthy Participants

We are looking for healthy women ages 21 to 40 to participate in a study about how life activities (including sexual ones) affect immunity. Compensation of up to $100 is provided.

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lifeandbody@umich.edu,
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GOOD NEWS FOR BAD BACKS

Welcome our new specialist in non-surgical care of back & neck pain

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Andrew Egger, M.D.

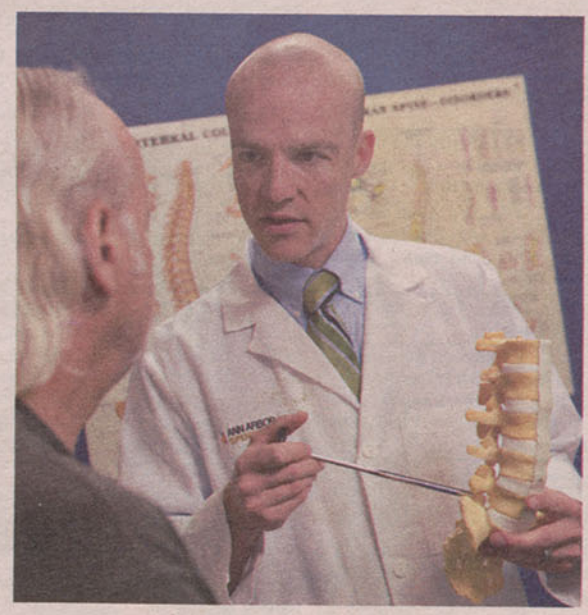
Board-Certified Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Fellowship-trained in spine

We're pleased to welcome Andrew Egger, MD to Ann Arbor Spine Center as its newest spine specialist, fellowship-trained in spine care. Dr. Egger is now accepting new patients related to back and neck pain at Ann Arbor Spine Center and the satellite locations in Brighton, Novi and Chelsea.

Dr. Egger is a native of Michigan. He earned his medical degree at Michigan State University and completed his residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Temple University Hospital-Moss Rehab in Philadelphia. During his residency, he served as Clinical Instructor at Temple University School of Medicine and Chief Resident in the Department of PM&R. Dr. Egger has completed a fellowship in Interventional Pain Management for spine. A fellowship is the highest level of medical education in the U.S. Dr. Egger is proficient in the non-surgical treatment of back and neck pain symptoms. This includes the use of lumbar and thoracic epidural steroid injections, facet joint injections, medial branch injections and electrodiagnostic testing (EMGs). Before joining Ann Arbor Spine Center, Dr. Egger had a spine practice with Performance Spine and Sports Physicians in Pennsylvania.

Within his role at Ann Arbor Spine Center, Dr. Egger is involved with the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of back and neck pain problems, including the use of EMGs and injection therapy. He specializes in helping people with back and neck pain recover from symptoms non-surgically. Dr. Egger is pleased to be back in Michigan where he grew up. He and his wife look forward to raising their family in the Ann Arbor area.

Ann Arbor Spine Center includes the expertise of



Carrie Stewart, MD, another specialist in non-surgical spine care, three neuro spine surgeons, three ortho spine surgeons, and a team of affiliated spine specialized therapists. If you would like to make an appointment, call 734-434-4110. As a community service, Ann Arbor Spine Center mails out a free 36-page Home Remedy Book for back pain. Call us and we'll send you a copy.

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Classifieds & Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✉=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Bright, slim, caring **SWPF** ISO true gentleman for friendship, maybe more. RSVP soon. 5786✍

Cute, fit, girl teddy bear ISO LTR with boy teddy bear 45+. For dancing to the Blues, cassoulet by the fire, more. 5794✍

Female, 50, looking for someone to hang out with. I'm a smoker and occasional drinker. 5809 ✍

Men Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Deaf male, **SW**, wife died. Looking for good woman, 39–49, who likes movies, walks, Thanksgiving, and family good times. 5803 ✍

Ready for love, SWM, 41, in search of special lady. 5808 ✍

SWM, 5'11", is an expert on film, music of the 50s & 60s, and American history. ISO intelligent SWF, who loves the arts and sports. I also enjoy tennis and long walks. 5805 ✍

General Personals

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB
You don't have to ski to be a member!
We are a 4-season social and sports club for singles and couples 21 & over from Ann Arbor and the surrounding area.
Upcoming events:
January 5, General Meeting
January 7, Sledding & Tobogganing at Kensington
January 13, Informal Euchre, Colonial Lanes
January 19, General Meeting
January 21, Plymouth Ice Sculpture Pub Crawl
January 23, Happy Hour at Bar Louie
Get the details at
a2skiclub.org.

Middle-aged professional woman seeking female roommate for short-term lease (January–April or May). Master bedroom with own bathroom, washer and dryer attached. Quiet, friendly condo building, west side of Ann Arbor. $475 a month plus utilities; month's deposit required. Near busline. Please call 994–0506 or email a2eve@aol.com.

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To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail:

Letter responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Ann Arbor Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to: Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Place Your Personals Ad Today!

- **Personals ads are $7.00 per line.**
- **Place a personals ad through www.arborlist.com and receive the first four lines for FREE.**
- **Email: classifieds@arborweb.com or Fax: (734) 769–3375**
- **Mail or walk-in: 201 Catherine St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Observer Personals Ads are also posted online at:

arborlist.com—*totally free classifieds*, and **arborweb.com**—*Ann Arbor online*

Please call with any questions or comments: (734) 769–3175

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

Home Freezer United Heavy Duty Commercial Model DA73L12KAU6 21 cubic feet. $150. 662–9897.

Entertainment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

Live harp music for your special occasion! Flute/harp duo also available. Contact Laurel through Rusch Entertainment, (800) 439–5319, ruschfun@aol.com, www.ruschentertainment.com.

★ CLASSICAL HARP MUSIC ★
Live harp music for any occasion.
Deborah Gabrion, (734) 417–6969

Lessons & Workshops

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

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for referrals to qualified professional piano teachers. All levels and ages, 665–5346. aaaptg.googlepages.com.

Piano Lessons. Double degreed in music education. Played 58 years, taught for 30. I am patient and positive. Call for a free lesson and chat. Near Ellsworth. (734) 646–2740.

PIANO LESSONS—Your home, all levels. Experienced, perceptive teacher. DMA U-M. Info: (734) 482–4663.

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PIANO LESSONS AGE 5 & UP
Prof. piano teacher, U-M Music School grad. Member of Piano Teachers Guild. Visit my website: www.McPianoLady.com. Mary Ann McCulloch, (734) 604–0942. Email: mcpianolady@aol.com.

Voice & Piano Lessons: 15+ years working with ages 5–adult. Classical, jazz, musical theater, folk, pop. Vocal method uses breath, voice, posture, & visualization. Stephannie Moore (734) 417–0670, stephannie@dynamicexpressionstudio.com.

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 83? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate to spend at an Ann Arbor Observer advertiser of your choice. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, January 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

L-Arginine supplement for your heart www.nuchoice.com/life ID# 4299694

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

WEBSITE DESIGN
Create, maintain or update your site!
Noreen's Simple Sites (734) 646–3400.
noreenssimplesites.com

Health

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

Ann Arbor Hypnotherapy
www.annarborhypnotherapy.com
(760) 710–1804
Smoking, weight, anxiety, stress, phobias, insomnia, depression, money, relationships, procrastination, regressions, and more.

Relax and Renew Massage
Swedish, Prenatal, Reiki, Chair or Table.
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SANDYA - Spiritual Channel, Healer & Counselor since 1990; (734) 206–1945.

Mari Pruks Psychotherapy, specializing in Trauma and Addiction. Are you stuck in a spiral of: relationship difficulties, low self-esteem, co-dependency, or emotional instability? Are you struggling with issues such as overeating, alcohol or drug use, PTDs, depression, and anxiety? To discuss how psychotherapy can help you please email me at maripruks@yahoo.com, visit by website maripruks psychotherapy.com or contact me by phone at (734) 352–0638.

Healing All Health Conditions YogaAndMeditation.com (734) 665–7801

Home

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

Housecleaning with the professional touch. Great references. (734) 717–2170.

Handyman *Plus*
Is something broken or not working right? Does it bother you? Caring, patient, personalized service. Promoting intelligent, preventative maintenance and repair. Licensed & insured. Degreed engineer. Since 1995, comprehensive technical expertise with over 100,000 repairs/improvements made. **Prompt response.** Emergency calls welcome. Robert@HelpMeCLE.com. Call Rob, (734) 368–0114.
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Available to clean your home. Excellent references. (734) 644–4510

Outdoors

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

SNOW REMOVAL. Be safe this winter! Snow blowers. **Reliable.** Seasonal or vacation. Nontoxic ice melters. Licensed and insured. **Clear & clean snow & ice management, (734) 428–1247.**

Snow Removal Service–Ann Arbor
No job too small. Call for an estimate.
Dependable Affordable Efficient
Hannah-Maria Jacques
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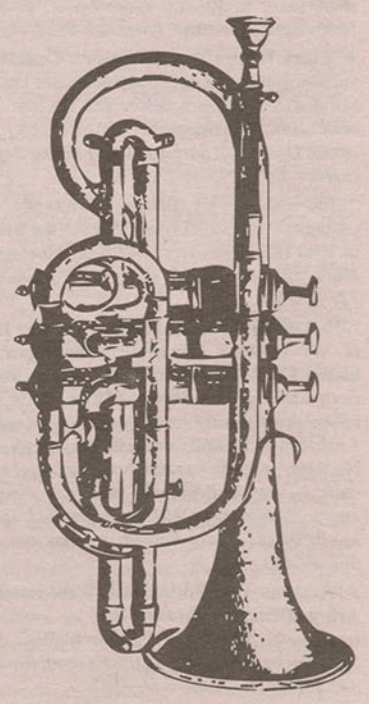

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Real Estate

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NEW LISTING – GRASS LAKE – Spectacular 98.5-acre estate featuring gorgeous grounds, horse setup, ponds, and custom built home. This is a truly one-of-kind property perfect for the outdoor enthusiast. Land includes large pond, pasture area, woods, and some farm land. Home includes 5-bedroom, 3-bath, two ½-bath, grand proportions, indoor pool, and shooting range. $1,599,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – This stunning home was custom-built for the 2008 Showcase of Homes Tour. You will be impressed by quality of materials and craftsmanship. This home rests on 7 ½ peaceful acres that includes a scenic pond, covered bridge, in-ground pool, and 60' x 100' barn. Interior features include two-story great room, chef's kitchen, luxury first-floor master suite, sunroom, den, and incredible finished basement. $1,350,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NW ANN ARBOR – This is one of the finest homes you will ever see. Striking Arch design with Idaho Blue Stone and Redwood exterior, exceptional landscaping, and covered outdoor patio with fireplace. Interior features cherry cabinets, floors, trim, and doors throughout. Gourmet kitchen, spa-like master suite, and finished lower-level with rec space, sauna, and full kitchen. Five-car heated garage. $1,350,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home is one of the finest custom-built homes you will ever see. Incredible craftsmanship. Nestled on a wooded 2.4 acre lot. Extensive landscaping, patio, and putting green. Home has every amenity including a two-story great room, sunroom, dream kitchen, luxury bath, and the ultimate finished basement. $1,195,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WALNUT RIDGE – Incredible contemporary gem in one of Ann Arbor's most sought-after neighborhoods. This home features incredible flair and features. Highlighted by the one-of-a-kind kitchen with stainless steel cabinets, professional grade appliances, and concrete counter tops. Features include all maple floors on the first floor, two-story great room, and luxury master suite with dream bath and closet. $735,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Incredible 6-bedroom, 5-bath, 2 ½-bath home on an acre plus lot in Saline. This home is loaded with custom features and amenities inside and out. Exterior features extensive landscaping, spacious yard, large deck, and 2 patios. Interior includes gorgeous living room, cherry kitchen with granite, cherry paneled den, first-floor master, and incredible finished basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GLENNBOROUGH – Very sharp 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath custom-built home by Russell. This home rests on one of the most gorgeous settings you will find backing to trees and wildlife. The interior is special featuring great room with vaulted ceiling, large custom kitchen with Corian, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home has been beautifully expanded and updated. Great setting on a quiet tree-lined street. Remodeled kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, and the first-floor master bedroom addition. Interior features family room with fireplace, formal living room and dining room, and finished basement. $529,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BARTON HILLS – Experience an incredible setting in Ann Arbor's most exclusive neighborhood. This 3 ½-acre wooded parcel features rolling land, great privacy, and ample wildlife. Home is a mid-century contemporary with great architectural significance but in need of major updating. Two-bedroom, 2-bath, home with very large great room, nice master suite, and tons of windows. $489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Very sharp 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath custom-built home on a spacious acre plus lot in one of the most desired subs in the Saline Schools. Great exterior, with extensive landscaping, large deck, and circle drive. The interior features two-story family room, open kitchen with maple cabinets, den, nice master suite, and finished walkout basement with recreation room, bedroom, and bath. $479,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Stately 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath custom-built home on a spacious acre plus lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. Great lot with view to open land, large deck, and extensive landscaping. The interior is sharp and features living room with vaulted ceiling, extensive hardwood floors, maple kitchen, sunroom, luxury master suite, and flex-use bonus room. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SAGINAW HILLS – Striking 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath water front home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Enjoy peaceful pond views from the oversized deck on this beautiful one-acre lot. Home has a nice contemporary flair and features an open kitchen and family room with water views, living room with vaulted ceiling, master suite with walk-in closet and luxury bath, and finished basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP – Rare find!! Sharp 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath custom-built home on a peaceful 1.4 acre lot just minutes to downtown Ann Arbor, UM Hospital, and UM North Campus. This home is rock solid and features two-story great room, open kitchen with large island, spacious first-floor master suite, generous upstairs bedrooms include suite and Jack-n-Jill bath. Park-like setting. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK – Great 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial overlooking a pond in one of the most desired subs in Saline schools. Walk to the elementary school and high school. The interior of this home is sharp and features two-story family room, open kitchen with cherry cabinets, formal living room and dining room, den, great master suite with vaulted ceiling and dream bath, and nice sized kids' bedrooms. $389,900 . **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Very nice 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home on a spacious acre-plus lot in one of Saline's most popular neighborhoods. Great setting with extensive landscaping, patio, and thick privacy foliage. The interior of this home sparkles, and is highlighted by the cherry kitchen with upgraded appliances, open family room, unique mid-level den, nice master suite, and finished basement. $369,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

EBERWHITE – Rare find! Sharp 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial in a quiet, tucked-away neighborhood convenient to everything. Great setting with one of the nicest yards you will find. Great trees, screened porch, and large backyard. The interior is move-in condition with hardwood floors throughout, large living and dining rooms, great family room with fireplace, spacious kitchen, and master suite with sitting area. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE - Oversized 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath ranch on a private 2.75 acre lot just minutes to downtown Saline and US-23. Wonderful setting features mature trees, extensive landscaping, and in-ground pool. Interior is spacious and features sunken living room with fireplace, oversized family room with room for game table and TV area, open kitchen, nice master suite, and lots of storage. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LINCOLN SCHOOLS – Enjoy your own 40-acre private getaway in this modest 3-bedroom, 1-bath home. The land is spectacular and features open meadows and dense woods. Potential for land split also exists. Perfect home for an outdoor enthusiast. Home is older and has lots of charm. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 ½ -bath colonial on 6+ peaceful, wooded acres just outside the village. Incredible setting features total privacy, ample wildlife, nature trails, large backyard, and out building. Home is special and includes large great room fireplace, three-season sunroom, open kitchen, nice master suite, and partially finished walkout basement. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MALLARD COVE – This very sharp 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home features extensive renovation, perfect maintenance, and pride of ownership. Incredible landscaping, large backyard, and paver patio. The interior is highlighted by the new kitchen with granite counters, and high-end stainless steel appliances, family room with fireplace, sunroom, master suite, study, loft, and generous bedroom sizes. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PATTENGILL AREA – Sharp 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch on a quiet tree-lined street walking distance to the elementary school. This home has been very well taken care of and features all hardwood floors, large living room, bright kitchen, spacious bedrooms, and partially finished basement. Lot feature extensive landscaping, deck, and garden area. $197,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CHELSEA SCHOOLS – Three-bedroom, 1-bath turn-of-the-century farmhouse on 3.7 peaceful acres including barn and pasture set up for horses. Wonderful grounds with fruit trees, gardens, and great privacy. Home is loaded with character and features hardwood floors, large kitchen, and family room with woodstove. Also available for $229,000 with 10 acres. $184,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WEST SIDE ANN ARBOR – Very sharp 2-bedroom, 1 ½-bath condo in the city, tucked away in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This unit, located in a small condo cluster, is walking distance to shopping, restaurants, and parks. Features include complete interior updates with new maple kitchen, carpet, and paint. Finished basement and attached garage. $179,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – Sharp 3-bedroom, 1 ½-bath ranch on a quiet 2-acre setting with an Ann Arbor mailing address, just 10 minutes to town. This great setting includes large yard, extensive landscaping, patio, and small barn. The interior is move-in condition, and features large living room, spacious kitchen, and good-sized bedrooms. $139,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Matt Dejanovich has been a Realtor serving the Ann Arbor area for 22 years and has been a resident of the community his entire life. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his clients.

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ANN ARBOR – Very special 4-bedroom, 4 ½-bath custom-built, builder's own home backing to Polo Fields golf course. Gorgeous brick and stone exterior, extensive landscaping, and the finest covered patio with outdoor kitchen you will see. Interior is top-of-the-line in every way. Custom kitchen, extensive moldings, high ceilings, and luxury amenities in every room of the home. $1,050,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR - Incredible 32-acre estate property just minutes to Ann Arbor, U-M, and hospitals. This property is breathtaking. This custom-built home rests in the heart of mature forest. Enjoy complete privacy and harmony with nature with the convenience of a premier location. The 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home features soaring ceilings, walls of glass, and extensive upgrades. $995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NW ANN ARBOR – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walkout basement. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MATTHAEI FARM – This stunning 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home rests on a 2.6 acre natural oasis in an Ann Arbor loved neighborhood. Incredible grounds feature ample plantings, mature trees, and complete privacy. Featuring living room with vaulted ceiling, cherry kitchen, open family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

COUNTRY ESTATE –This dramatic 3-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built ranch rests on 3-plus wooded acres just 10 minutes from Ann Arbor. Features include attractive stone accented exterior, screened porch, large deck, custom cherry kitchen, open family room with fireplace, raised ceiling throughout, finished walkout basement with multi-use recreation space, and Geo-thermal heat and a/c (very low energy cost). $529,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 4.4-bath custom-built home by Harris on the 9th fairway at Stonebridge. This home is the essence of quality. Incredible landscaping and multi-tier brick paver patio. Features a two-story family room with masonry fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, den with built-ins, luxury master suite with spa-like bath, and finished lower level with rec room. $529,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PLEASANT LAKE FRONTAGE HOME - Enjoy panoramic views of one of the area's most desired all sports lakes from this renovated 3-bedroom, 2-bath home. The property is breathtaking with over 100' lake frontage, mature trees, large grassy area, and lake front pavilion. Home is designed to take in the lake and features four seasons porch, large great room, and one of the nicest master suites you will find. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CHELSEA SCHOOLS – Incredible 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home on Crooked Lake. Enjoy incredible panoramic views of this peaceful lake with an abundance of wild-life, boating and swimming available. Home is gorgeous and features all maple floors and trim, great room with views of the lake, open kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $499,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SANDPIPER COVE – Striking 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath custom built colonial on a gorgeous acre lot backing to a mature tree line. This home presents like a model home. Incredible grounds with beautiful plantings, two-tier deck, and shady backyard. Interior features maple kitchen with granite counters, open family room with built-ins, oversized master suite with sitting room and exercise area, and great kids' bedrooms. $429,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

3000 GLAZIER WAY – Stunning 3-bedroom, 2-bath condo in Ann Arbor's most desired building. Enjoy the gorgeous natural surroundings from this fabulous unit just minutes from hospitals, U-M, and North Campus. Features open great room, porch overlooking the woods, sunroom, spacious master bath, and study. Freshly painted, move-in condition. $424,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LAKE FOREST – Quality Wexford built, 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home located deep within the neighborhood on a quiet ½-acre lot. Great setting features gorgeous landscaping, large deck, and great backyard. The interior is sharp, and includes two-story family room, open kitchen with granite counters, formal living room and dining room, study, first-floor master suite, and nicely sized upstairs bedrooms. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

UPLAND HILLS – CHELSEA – This stunning, custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful settings you will find anywhere. Quiet cul-de-sac lot backs to 20-acre nature preserve. Enjoy panoramic views of nature, ponds, and trees. Interior is sharp and features great room with 12' ceilings, large kitchen with hearth area, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE RIDGE – Very sharp 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath colonial on a quiet acre lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. Great setting with significant landscaping, large deck, and beautiful patio. This home features a large family room with fireplace, open maple kitchen, formal living room and dining room, oversized master suite, and incredible finished walkout basement. $309,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CHELSEA – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath colonial on 5 gorgeous acres just minutes from downtown Chelsea. Incredible setting features wooded views, large pond, huge deck, and small outbuilding. Home is in top-shape and features all hardwood floors, large living room, family room with fireplace, kitchen with granite counters, and great master suite. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

EAST HORIZONS – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the most desired subs in Saline's school district. This great setting features very large backyard, great deck, and extensive landscaping. The interior is crisp with ample hardwood floors, great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, fabulous first-floor master suite with brand new bath, and spacious bedrooms. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WEST SIDE ANN ARBOR – Storybook brick and stone home on one of the most unique and beautiful lots on the west side. Enjoy your own personal oasis at this ½ acre setting featuring towering mature trees, extensive landscaping, and gardens. Home is solid but modest and loaded with character. Hardwood floors, extensive trim, and curved ceilings. $299,900 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ARBOR WOODS - This stunning 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath custom-built colonial rests on one of the most picturesque settings you will find in the Ann Arbor school district. Enjoy views of nature, ponds, and wildlife from the oversized deck. Home features cherry kitchen with 9' ceilings, open family room with fireplace, dream master suite with large bath, nice sized kids' bedrooms, and walkout basement. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WEST SIDE CAPE – Classic 4-bedroom, 1-bath cape on a quiet west side Ann Arbor neighborhood-- an easy walk to downtown. This home is highlighted by the newer maple kitchen with Corian counter tops. Other features include hardwood floors, coved ceilings, large living room, and generous bedrooms. Two car garage and great backyard $239,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WILDWOOD – Great 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch in one of Saline's most desired subs. This is one of the sharpest homes you will see with a great floor plan and stunning décor. The lot is fantastic, backing to woods with large deck and extensive landscaping. The interior features great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, nice master suite, and finished basement with multi-use rec room, study, and bath. $239,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HAISLEY – This is one of the sharpest west side capes you will find on the market today. This 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home has been completely redone. Great lot, in a very quiet location, features large fenced yard, great deck, and 2 ½-car garage. A newer maple kitchen with Corian counters, nice upstairs master with half-bath, and finished basement, highlights the interior. $219,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI – Striking ranch on a very quiet street just a short walk to Depot Town. Wonderful fenced backyard with large deck and screened porch. The home has many updates and improvements including open kitchen with granite counter tops, large living room, and spacious bedrooms. $139,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP – Remarkable 2-bedroom, 1-bath ranch at a remarkable price on 2+ acres of land just minutes from US-23. Incredible property with treed privacy on 3 sides. Home has many updates including newer roof, windows, furnace, septic, and is ready for your interior touches. Oversized great room with fireplace, vaulted ceiling, spacious kitchen, full basement, and updated bath. $99,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Sharp 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo near U-M campus. Enjoy this quiet complex convenient to everything with in-ground swimming pool. This unit is in great shape and features a spacious living room, nice bedroom, and perfect condition throughout. $63,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WALDEN HILLS – Nice 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo in this popular west side complex. Unit is in move-in condition and features large living room, kitchen, and a huge master bedroom with walk-in closet. Great amenities include indoor pool, exercise room, and racquetball court. $59,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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Autumn Woods Condos Brand new condo with wooded views from private deck. Stylish open floor plan, 1,375 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, cathedral ceiling, loads of windows, spacious living and dining rooms. $82,500. #3000497

Vintage Valley Nature lover's delight on 1/2 acre. Crisp contemporary, light and bright. 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, freshly painted and carpeted, fireplace, 2-car attached garage, King School. $449,000. #3108414

King School Striking 2-story home in N.E. Ann Arbor on premium wooded lot. 4 bedrooms, study, 3.5 baths, hardwood floors, updates, finished lower level. Landscaped, brick paver patio. $499,000. #3108694

Ann Arbor Hills Wonderful, charming, brick and cedar shake home on one of the most desirable streets in the heart of Ann Arbor. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, family room, wood floors, 2-car garage. $599,000. #3104375

Dexter Schools Stunning, custom 4 bedroom, 3 full, 3 half bath. 2 studies, enormous cherry kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace, finished lower level, 4-car garage, barn, workshop. 24 acres! $975,000. #3004415

Huron River Hills Updated ranch is like new with updates throughout. Large living room, cook's kitchen, remodeled bath, 2 car garage, walk to Huron River. Huge backyard with privacy fencing. $148,500. #3108115

Scio Hills Private wooded cul-de-sac location, acre lot! Dramatic 2-story with open plan, hardwood floors, new kitchen, living room fireplace, sunroom, 2 studies. Minutes to Ann Arbor. $465,000. #3106401

Stonebridge Golf Course Awesome brick custom ranch home. 3,340 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, study, living room fireplace, island kitchen, sunroom, finished lower level. Beautiful golf course lot. $559,000. #3108738

Barton Hills Striking contemporary 4 bedroom, 3 bath on gorgeous wooded 1.15 acres with winding creek. Study, living room fireplace, large sunroom, newer granite kitchen, finished walkout. $649,000. #3106475

Glennborough Outstanding 4 bedroom, 5 full, 2 half bath, 2-story with custom features and upgrades. Chef's kitchen, hardwood floors throughout, solarium, 5 fireplaces, finished walkout. $995,000. #3107450

Nature Cove Condo Fabulous top floor condo with western views! Remodeled with 2 bedrooms, study with built-ins, wood floors. New furnace, central air and paint. 2 parking spots. Great location! $219,900. #3104760

Travis Pointe Premium location, stunning contemporary 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath with pond and golf course views. Gourmet kitchen, incredible great room with wall of windows. Walkout lower level. $489,000. #3108260

Barton Hills Distinctive brick 2-story on beautiful, mature lot. 3,073 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, study, 2.5 baths. Private master bedroom with gorgeous views, screened porch. Pristine shape. $569,000. #3103640

Ann Arbor Hills Wonderful brick 2-story home with incredible, large lot. 3 bedrooms and study, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, fireplace, built-ins, marvelous formal dining room, screened porch. $650,000. #3103958

Sloan Plaza Fabulous downtown penthouse with unparalleled southwest views of Ann Arbor! 4,400 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, study, 3 baths, gourmet kitchen, terraces, 2 parking spaces, doorman. $1,195,000. #3105798

Scio Township Terrific, pristine 2,117 sq. ft. ranch on lush .78 acre lot between Ann Arbor and Dexter. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, fresh paint and carpet. Great location near parks & Huron River. $285,000. #3108441

Ann Arbor Hills Classic 3-story, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath on hilltop with great views! Full of character and charm. Family room with many windows, wood floors. Partially finished walkout. New roof. $499,000. #3103002

Lodi Township Striking 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2-story timber frame home on 10 wooded acres. Study, 2 fireplaces, 4-season room, heated additional 2.5-car garage. Minutes to downtown Ann Arbor. $590,000. #3108398

Ives Woods Beautiful, sophisticated 3-story colonial. Updated with 3,719 sq. ft, 5 bedrooms, 2 full, 3 half baths, study, newer kitchen, living room fireplace. Professionally landscaped. $859,900. #3108831

Barton Hills Exquisite distinctive home on 3.5 gorgeous, wooded acres offering panoramic views. 6,000 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, study, wonderful kitchen and sunroom, 3 fireplaces. $1,595,000. #3102808

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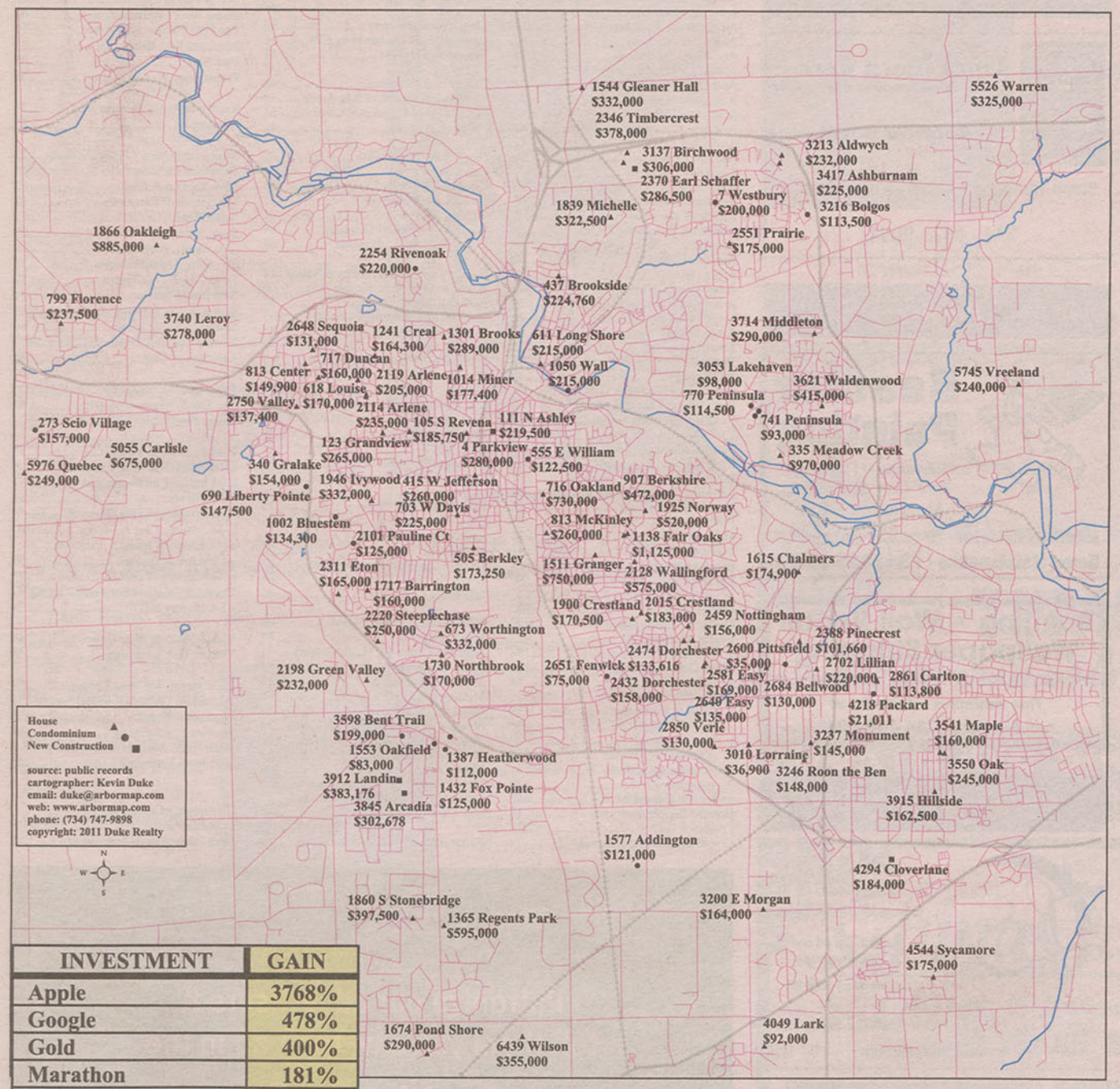

INVESTMENT	GAIN
Apple	3768%
Google	478%
Gold	400%
Marathon	181%
Exxon Mobil	102%
IBM	97%
yen	37%
Berkshire Hathaway	35%
DTE	34%
Kellogg	32%
Verizon	27%
News Corp	18%
AT&T	14%
Comcast	14%
DJ Industrials	14%
euro	8%
Microsoft	-5%
1138 Fair Oaks	-6%
Symantec	-8%
JPM Chase	-11%
A2 Single-Family	-15%
dollar (after inflation)	-29%
Ford	-37%
Pfizer	-39%
Comerica	-54%
Pulte	-75%
Gannett	-85%
Bank of America	-87%
Borders	-100%
GM	-100%

Another contender for the title of the most expensive home sold in 2011 appears on this month's map. Situated in Ives Woods a few blocks from Burns Park, the five-bedroom Dutch Colonial at 1138 Fair Oaks sold for $1,125,000. The home provides 4,847 square feet of living space surrounded by a generous buffer of nearly an acre. The family that bought the home includes a cosmetic surgeon whose office is nearby, according to public records and the surgeon's own website.

1138 Fair Oaks is large even by Ives Woods standards. The seven homes sold there this year averaged 3,000 square feet of living space. But homes here appear smaller than they might otherwise, thanks to the neighborhood's exceedingly tall, mature trees.

The trophy home's sale raised this year's average (mean) selling price for a home in Ives Woods to $712,000. Buyers paid an average of $244 per square foot of living space, enough to beat both the median for homes 3,000 square feet and larger in Ann Arbor ($193 per square foot—see the December 2011 Observer) as well as the median for its pricey Angell Elementary neighborhood ($221 per square foot—see the July 2011 Observer).

Originally built in 1916 and extensively remodeled and updated, 1138 Fair Oaks sold for $1.2 million when it last turned over in 2003. The $75,000 difference amounts to a decline of 6 percent in value during the last eight years.

For comparison, we've lined up the loss taken on this home against the change over the past eight years in other investments' values. The table at left ranks the change only in the price of an investment, ignoring complex issues like dividends or tax treatments. Most figures are based on Morningstar's calculation of the change in value over the past eight years. (In this context, it's worth noting that the average homeowner moves about every eight years.) The investment table also lists the 15 percent drop in the median selling price in existing Ann Arbor single-family homes since 2003. While 1138 Fair Oaks may have fought its way out of the Great Recession better than some, it's certainly no Apple.

—Kevin Duke

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Back Page

i spy

by Sally Bjork

Last before the Depression

Bob DeBona writes that his whole family loves "searching for the I Spy around town." In December, it led them to "one of the entrances" of a new U-M building.

Michael Ferguson identifies it as "South Hall," while Dave Bicknell describes it simply as the "new Law School academic building." It "opened this fall on the corner of South State and Monroe streets," relays Sally Collins. "For … students seeking a break," Judy Avery adds, it's "conveniently close to Dominick's."

"They did a nice job with the new construction," comments Lesley Littman. Louisa Griffes concurs, noting that it "looks very similar to the original" Law Quad, thanks in part to using stone from the same quarries.

Pam Kittel points out that South Hall's site was the 1906 Cutting Building, "before UM tore it down to 'put up a parking lot'" in the early 1960s. Susan Wineberg, co-author of *Historic Buildings, Ann Arbor, Michigan*, calls it the city's "first real apartment building," adding that it was "named after its owner, John H. Cutting," a clothier with a shop on Main Street. Griffes—citing a 2004 Observer article by Grace Shackman, describes it as "an elegant … building, where many of Ann Arbor's elite made their residence."

We received fifteen entries correctly identifying South Hall. Our random drawing winner is Robert Koernke. He'll enjoy his $25 gift certificate at China Gate.

To enter this month's contest, use the photo and clue above to identify the scene, then follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received 190 entries correctly identifying the December Fake Ad for the Cumberfun accessory designed to conceal the gap above young men's baggy pants.

More than a few Fake Adders thought the Cumberfun was just the thing to cover up an unsightly fad. One also contended that the correct spelling is "cummerbund," not "cumberbund." My editorial lackeys tell me both are correct.

Here at Fake Ad Headquarters, we always like to learn something new. But we like to have our ego stroked even more: "What are the odds that I would open the Observer to a random page and spot the fake ad immediately?" asked Judi Taylor. "Well that is just what happened. The fake ad for the "Cumberfun" on page 81 was a delight to read. You are truly the Fake Ad Czar. I don't know what that guy you wrote about a month or so ago is talking about when he doubts your genius. Probably he is just having a bad day because his jeans don't cover his a..!"

The email bag also included a poem, from Nancy Taylor:

It's not so fun to bare one's middle
If fat and blubber jiggle there;
An easy way to solve the riddle
Is wrapping Cumberfun with flair!

Victor Roth was chosen as our winner. He's taking his gift certificate to Zingerman's Bakehouse.

To enter this month's contest, find the Fake Ad in this issue and follow the instructions in the box below. Hint: the ad always includes the name of the Observer's website, arborweb.com—this month in the line "Made right here in Ann Arbor, we believe …"

To enter either contest, send email with the subject "Fake Ad" or "I Spy" to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Fax: 769–3375. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received by noon on January 10 will be eligible for this month's random drawings. Winners will receive $25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

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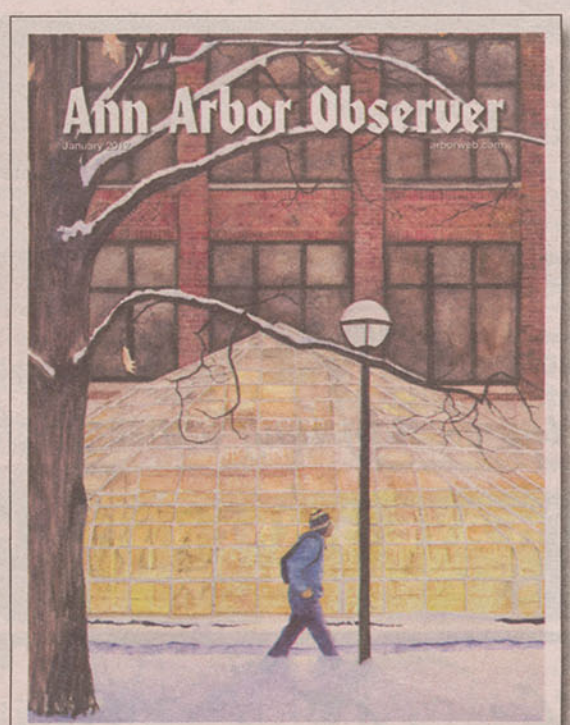

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Events at a Glance

*Daily **Events** listings begin on p. **49**. **Films:** p. **63**. **Galleries:** p. **57**. **Nightspots** begin on p. **46**.*

Acclaimed South African vocalist Vusi "The Voice" Mahlasela performs at UMMA Jan. 13.

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- "Music from Magical Beaver Island" Baroque concert, Jan. 8
- Trombonist Russell Hawes, Jan. 9
- Ann Arbor Concert Band, Jan. 15
- Soprano Alissa Deeter, baritone Robert Peavler, and pianist Arlene Schrut, Jan. 15
- Pianists David Abbott & Lia Jensen-Abbott, Jan. 18
- Sfogati Renaissance & Baroque ensemble, Jan. 20
- Out Loud Chorus, Jan. 20
- Bach & Beethoven Ensemble, Jan. 21
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 21
- U-M Life Sciences Orchestra, Jan. 22
- Pianist Denis Matsuev, Jan. 23
- Pianists Ning Wu Du & Helen Sim, Jan. 24
- Kerrytown Concert House "Wine, Women, & Song," Jan. 27–29
- Les Violons du Roy chamber ensemble, Jan. 28
- First Presbyterian Church "Kirkin' o' the Tartan," Jan. 29
- Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 29

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

*See **Nightspots**, p. 46, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs*

- Ellen Rowe Quartet (jazz), Jan. 4
- Lise (singer-songwriter), Jan. 7
- Vusi Mahlasela (South African), Jan. 13
- Michael on Fire (singer-songriter), Jan. 13
- The Juggernaut Jug Band, Jan. 20
- Caleb Curtis & Chris Pattishall (jazz), Jan. 21
- Ann Arbor Folk Festival, Jan. 27 & 28

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Performance Network), Jan. 1
- *The Collaborators* (National Theatre–London live broadcast), Jan. 8
- Classical Indian dancer Sreyashi Dey's "Language of Mudra," Jan. 10
- *Faust* (Metropolitan Opera live broadcast), Jan. 11
- *God of Carnage* (Performance Network), Jan. 12–15, 19–22, & 26–29
- Carol Dunitz's one-woman show *Bernhardt on Broadway: The Musical*, Jan. 14
- *A Stone Carver* (Purple Rose Theatre), Jan. 19–22 & 25–29
- Philip Glass & Robert Wilson's *Einstein on the Beach*, Jan. 20–22
- "Faculty & Guest Artist Choreography Concert" (EMU Dance Program), Jan. 20–22
- *A Body of Water* (Threefold Productions), Jan. 20, 21, 25, 27, & 28
- *The Enchanted Island* (Metropolitan Opera live broadcast), Jan. 21
- *Much Ado about Nothing* (Ann Arbor Civic Theatre), Jan. 26–29

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Comic Warren B. Hall, Jan. 5–7
- Comic Ahmed Ahmed, Jan. 12–14
- River Raisin Ragtime Revue "Ragtime Burlesque," Jan. 14
- The Moth Storyslam, Jan. 17
- Comic Myq Kaplan, Jan. 19–21
- Comic Dustin Ybarra, Jan. 26–28
- Ann Arbor Wordworks, Jan. 27

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- U-M Center for Japanese Studies "Mochitsuki," Jan. 7
- Michigan Argentine Tango Club festival, Jan. 27–30
- Future Farmers of America Farm Toy Show, Jan. 28
- Saline "Winterfest," Jan. 28
- Ann Arbor Chinese Center of Michigan Chinese New Year's Celebration, Jan. 28
- U-M Raas Core "Dandia Dhamaka" Indian dance competition, Jan. 28

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Poet Christian Campbell, Jan. 5
- Poet Sara Gambito, Jan. 12
- U-M MLK Symposium, Jan. 16
- Novelist Eileen Pollack, Jan. 18
- Novelist Joanna Scott, Jan. 19
- Historian Candice Millard, Jan. 19
- Poet C.D. Wright, Jan. 23
- Poet Naomi Shihab Nye, Jan. 23
- Novelist Adam Johnson, Jan. 24

Family & Kids' Stuff

- Deep Fried Pickle Project Family concert, Jan. 8
- The Verve Pipe family show, Jan. 21
- *Wolverine Will* (Performance Network Children's Theater Network), Jan. 21
- *Under the African Sky* (Wild Swan Theater), Jan. 26–28

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Ann Arbor Dodgeball Championship *and* Thurston School Chess Tournament, Jan. 21

JANUARY 2012

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M school of art & design

1/13 ~ 2/10
Exhibition:
8th Annual A&D Faculty Exhibition

An expansive snapshot of current creative practice by faculty from the School of Art & Design, with a lively mix of work, from paintings, prints and ceramics, to installation, performance and kinetic pieces.

OPENING RECEPTION:
January 13, 6:00 - 9:00pm

Slusser Gallery
1st floor, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd.

1/13 ~ 2/10
Exhibition:
Standing Heat

Curated by Holly Hughes, and featuring the work of internationally acclaimed artist Kathy High and New Orleans based Lee Deigaard (A&D MFA '02), Standing Heat maps the boundary between animal and human.

OPENING RECEPTION:
January 13, 6:00 - 9:00pm

Work•Ann Arbor
306 S. State

1/13 ~ 2/17
Exhibition:
Love for Sale

Love for Sale explores the link between art and commerce, as well as the concept of the image as a generator of need; art as commodity. The gallery space may address the central theme of the exhibit by transforming itself into a storefront.

EXHIBITION RECEPTION:
February 14, 6:00 - 9:00pm

Work • Detroit
3663 Woodward Avenue, Detroit

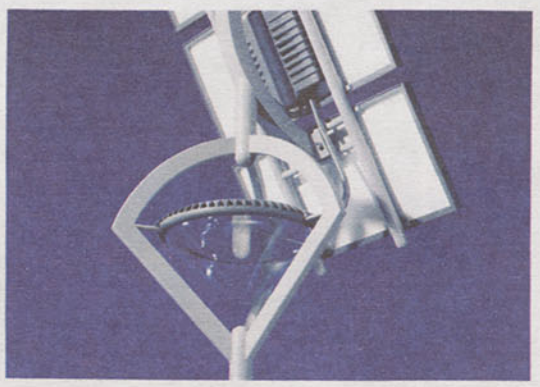
1/15
Penny Stamps Speaker Series:
Philip Glass and Robert Wilson

The legendary creators of *Einstein on the Beach*, director Robert Wilson and composer Philip Glass discuss the history of and creative process behind their groundbreaking collaboration in a special Stamps presentation on Sunday, January 15.

PRESENTATION: 4:00pm

Michigan Theater
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor

1/19
Penny Stamps Speaker Series:
Tony Fry



Regarded as one of the most progressive thinkers on design in the world today, Tony Fry is a Professor of Design Futures, a designer, theorist, and a farmer. He is also developing an academy of indigenous-based creative practices in East Timor. A renowned lecturer, Tony is the author of nine books. Commenting on his book, *Design as Politics*, a reviewer says: "To say it's "timely" is an understatement. Fry offers us one of the most prescient theses for the design of a different possible future".

PRESENTATION: 5:10pm

Michigan Theater
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor

1/26
Penny Stamps Speaker Series:
Maira Kalman & Daniel Handler aka Lemony Snicket

Illustrator and columnist Maira Kalman and author Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket) discuss their latest collaboration, the illustrated novel *Why We Broke Up* about a star crossed teenage love affair. This work follows their collaboration on the highly successful picture book, *13 Words*.

PRESENTATION: 5:10pm

Michigan Theater
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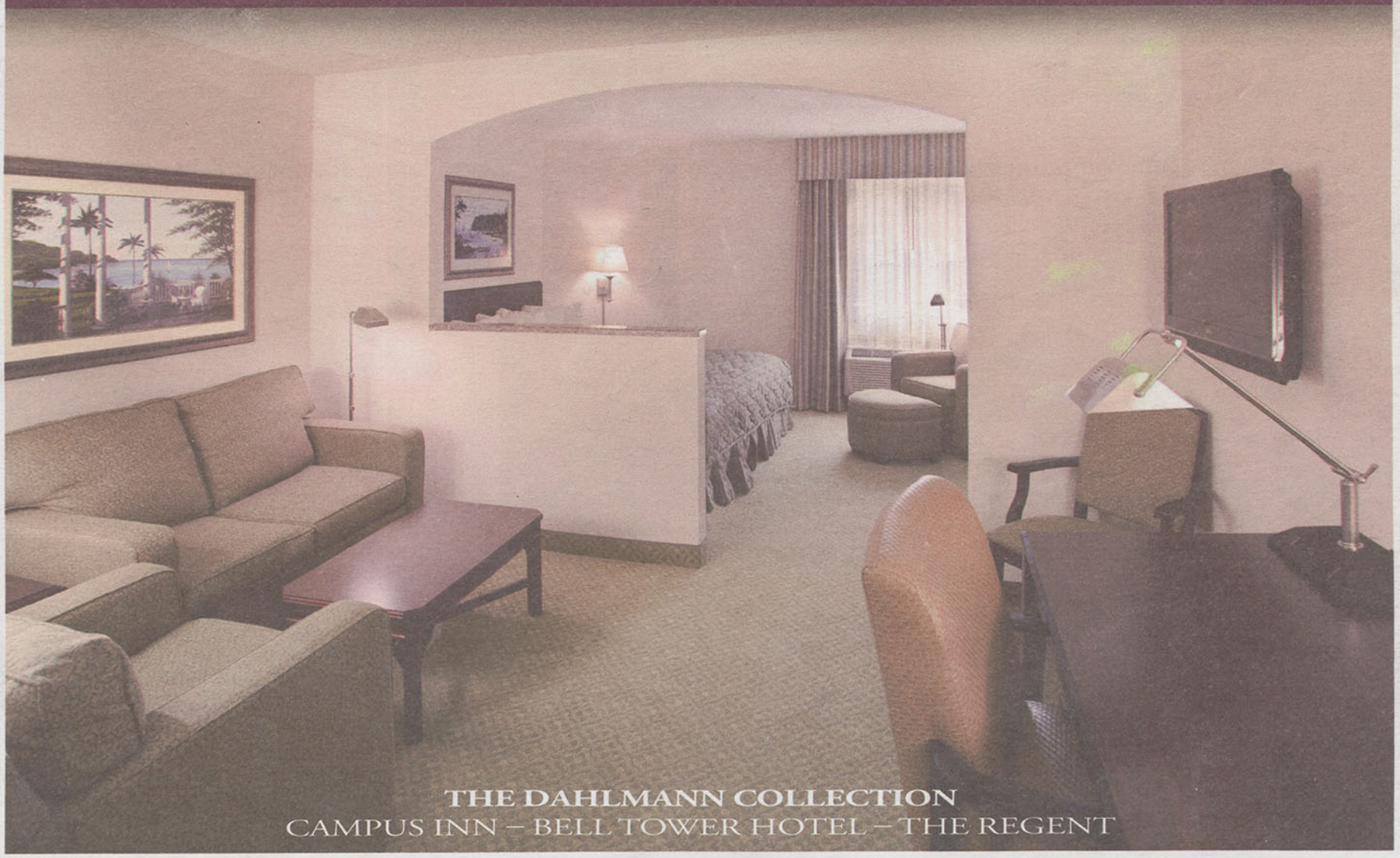

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